

A Research Agenda for Criminal Justice in Georgia: Consensus Across Agencies

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Overview

The Georgia Statistical Analysis Bureau (SAB) was established on March 20, 1990, to integrate and analyze criminal justice data. Ultimately, this research process is aimed at providing timely, practical information regarding the criminal justice system to policy analysts, the Governor, legislators, other elected officials, and members of the public interested in criminal justice issues. The SAB's first goal was to develop an agenda for criminal justice research in Georgia.

To achieve this initial goal, the SAB conducted a survey of criminal justice practitioners. This initial survey found a consensus across criminal justice agencies regarding the research areas that the SAB should address in its initial years. Having identified these content areas, we can now turn to our second objective: identifying the available data bases that can address the questions to which criminal justice professionals are interested in knowing the answers. In sum, this survey gives the SAB a research agenda defined by the long-term interests of the entire criminal justice community.

The Survey

The questionnaire was designed by experts in the SAB and various criminal justice agencies. It consisted of 26 closed-ended questions asking respondents to rank on a five-point scale the usefulness of investigating the following areas of criminal justice: "issues related to crime," "issues related to process," "issues related to the system," and "issues related to the

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offender." The questions are listed in Table 1. A final question, which was open-ended, asked for any additional information the respondent might be interested in knowing.

This survey did not randomly sample all criminal justice personnel in Georgia. Rather, we identified policy makers in middle and upper management level positions in criminal justice agencies. These professionals were expected to be best able to determine what are and what ought to be the major concerns of the criminal justice community statewide. The sample was carefully designed using a technique that approximated purposive and snowball sampling, whereby members of the research sub-committee and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council identified the target sample in their respective agencies.

The surveys were sent to 522 middle and upper level managers, who came from four groups. Three of the groups were directly related to criminal justice: corrections, judiciary, and law enforcement. The fourth group ("public representatives") included representatives from the media (policy and legislative reporters), criminal justice faculty, private corporations, county commissioners, the Office of Planning and Budget, the Legislative Budget Office, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the Georgia General Assembly, and the Georgia Municipal Association. Of the 522 surveys sent out, 322 (64%) were returned.

Findings

Listed below are the top five questions about which the criminal justice community in Georgia is most eager to gain additional information.

Question: How useful would it be to know...	Overall Mean
13)...which alternative works best for what type of offender?	4.55
19)...why Georgia has such a high incarceration rate?	4.40
22)...what significant factors make a parolee successful (e.g., family, employment)?	4.27
12)...what the sentence and actual punishment are for different types of crime, for different types of courts, and for different parts of the State?	4.22
25)...the impact of probation sentence(s) on an offender (e.g., likelihood of further arrest, technical violation, types of offenders more suited to probation)?	4.20

The criminal justice community is interested in knowing which alternatives work best for what type of offenders, what significant factors make a parolee successful, how sentencing

and actual punishment differ, and what the impact of probation is. Also, there is keen interest in learning why there is such a high incarceration rate in Georgia. Interestingly enough, there is a general consensus across criminal justice agencies that these are the items that most require further research.

In addition to analyzing the 26 closed-ended questions, we also examined the responses to the open-ended question that sought "other information." Many respondents agreed that the 26 questions exhausted the types of information desired in criminal justice. Most of the remaining responses fell within the four criminal justice content areas of the survey. Some responses highlighted specific questions for research, such as the effect of law enforcement consolidation on crime arrest and conviction rates or the effect of plea bargaining in assault cases on the likelihood of future assaults. Other responses suggested long term projects, such as developing a statewide tracking system of career criminals.

Conclusions

The survey included a wide range of questions pertaining to four distinct areas: crime, process, system, and offender. The findings indicate a consensus among criminal justice professionals, as well as representatives of the public, with regard to the criminal justice research agenda: It should clearly focus primarily on issues related to the system, secondarily on process, thirdly on crime, and fourthly on offender-related issues. The fact that the four groups in the study (corrections, judiciary, law-enforcement, and public representatives) agreed on the ranking of these issues is extremely important, as it suggests respondents believe that problems must be addressed in a coordinated effort by all criminal justice agencies.

Given the consensus about research priorities, the SAB will next identify and prepare for analyses various criminal justice data bases that can be used to address these research issues. The SAB welcomes research proposals from the criminal justice and the academic communities.

Technical Appendix: Methodology

The Survey

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire consisted of 26 closed-ended questions asking how useful it would be to investigate a certain issue in criminal justice. The answers were displayed on a five-point Likert type scale where "1" was "not at all useful" and "5" was "very useful." The 26 questions explored the importance for research in several different content areas: Questions 1-6 dealt with "issues related to crime," questions 7-12 dealt with "issues related to the process," questions 13-19 dealt with "issues related to the system," and questions 20-26 dealt with "issues related to the offender" (see Table 1 for a listing of all 26 questions). Question 27 was an open-ended question soliciting information about any other desired information the respondent might be interested in (see Table 5 for a detailed array of responses).

The Sample

The purpose of this survey was to learn from policy makers and mid-level managers in various criminal justice agencies what issues need to be further studied. To achieve this purpose, we sent 522 questionnaires to the following groups: corrections, judiciary, law enforcement and public representatives.¹ Out of the 522 surveys sent out, 322 (64%) of the questionnaires were returned. Table 2 details the agencies, surveys sent to each, surveys returned, percent returned, and percent returned of total returned.

This survey did not randomly sample all criminal justice personnel in Georgia. Rather, we identified policy makers in middle and upper management level positions in criminal justice agencies. These professionals were expected to be best able to determine what are and what ought to be the major concerns of the criminal justice community statewide. The sample was carefully designed using a technique that approximated purposive

¹ "Public representatives" included individuals in the media (policy and legislative reporters), criminal justice departments, private corporations, county commissioners, the Office of Planning and Budget, the Legislative Budget Office, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the Georgia General Assembly, and the Georgia Municipal Association.

and snowball sampling, whereby members of the research sub-committee and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council identified the target sample in their respective agencies.

Statistical Analysis Techniques

Several statistical procedures were performed on the data. Simple frequencies by category and by unweighted and weighted means were employed to rank items. Factor analysis was used to identify the dimension structure of the 26 item responses. Finally, oneway analysis of variance was conducted to examine possible differences among the factor means.

Findings

The factor analysis performed on the 26 items (see Table 3 for ranked means) yielded four distinct factors that corresponded to the four dimensions of the questionnaire. Only loadings of .3 and above were used to identify factor items. Of these factor loadings, we included only the highest single loading per item. Four factors were forced (the additional ones were negligible in their explanation of the variance in the factor structure). Orthogonal varimax rotation was employed to identify factors. Factor #1 (explaining 31.8% of the variance) focused on issues related to the system, Factor #2 (explaining 7.9% of the variance) identified the dimension of issues related to the process, Factor #3 (explaining 5.3% of the variance) identified the dimension of issues related to crime, and Factor #4 (explaining 4.7% of the variance) identified the dimension of issues related to the offender (see Table 4). The oneway analysis of variance, on each of the factors, yielded no significant differences on the first three factors and showed only two differences on the fourth factor. Thus, the analysis confirmed a general consensus among the four groups on the factor structure of the questionnaire.

Table 1: Complete Listing of Research Topics in Original Survey

QUESTION: How useful would it be...
ISSUES RELATED TO CRIME
1)...to document the drug crime problem statewide through the entire criminal justice system, not just at time of arrest?
2)...to investigate the relationship of domestic violence and homicide?
3)...to investigate the effect of heavier DUI penalties since 1983 on court processes and corrections?
4)...to investigate the similarity of types of crimes committed in rural versus urban communities?
5)...to investigate whether there is any effect on juvenile delinquent as well as status offense rate by in-school suspension and truancy intervention programs?
6)...to determine the effect on court process and overall performance of increasing criminal caseloads?
ISSUES RELATED TO PROCESS
7)...to be able to follow individual criminals as they move through the criminal justice system (law enforcement to courts to prison to parole)?
8)...to measure the backlog of cases at each stage of the criminal justice system?
9)...to know the costs (time, salaries, other resources) required to process a case at each stage of the criminal justice system?
10)...to know the impact of the criminal justice system on other governmental systems (e.g., civil trials, unemployment, mental health)?
11)...to know the effects of federal money on the operation of criminal justice agencies in Georgia?
12)...to know what the sentence and actual punishment are for different types of crimes, for different types of courts, and for different parts of the State?
ISSUES RELATED TO THE SYSTEM
13)...to know which alternative works best for what type of offender?
14)...to know what the impact is on the system of judicial discretion in sentencing?
15)...to know how, in a time of limited resources, we decide which offenders get help and what kind of help (treatment, support programs) they get?
16)...to know what relationships exist between the criminal justice community and other parts of society?
17)...to know which correctional education/vocational programs are meeting the need to provide skilled, employable workers for the 90's?
18)...to know if drug abuse treatment in a community setting is as effective as in-patient treatment?
19)...to know why Georgia has such a high incarceration rate?
ISSUES RELATED TO OFFENDERS
20)...to profile drug offenders and their involvement with drugs (e.g., sellers vs. users, drugs used, treatment history)?
21)...to have information about the criminal cycle (i.e., from juvenile through adult) of a particular offender group (e.g., property offenders, sex offenders, female offenders)?
22)...to know what significant factors make a parolee successful (e.g., family, employment)?
23)...to know the impact on an offender of fines and restitution obligations?
24)...to know the reliability of in-prison Disciplinary Reports in predicting the future criminal behavior of an offender?
25)...to know the impact of probation sentence(s) on an offender (e.g., likelihood of further arrests, technical violations, types of offenders more suited to probation)?
26)...to know about the mobility of offenders (e.g., types of offenders most likely to travel to other states/countries to commit crimes)?

Table 2: The Percentage Return Rate From SAB Survey

Agency Surveyed	Surveys Sent	Surveys Returned	Percent Returned	% Of Total Returned
Corrections	112	85	76%	25.6%
Judges	72	30	42%	9.0%
Parole	84	71	85%	21.4%
District Attorney	11	9	82%	2.7%
Sheriff	48	26	54%	7.8%
Police	35	18	51%	5.4%
Youth Services	39	19	49%	5.7%
Academics	17	13	77%	3.9%
Private Corporations	5	4	80%	1.2%
County Commissioners	15	5	33%	1.5%
GBI	4	4	100%	1.2%
Juvenile Judge	8	7	88%	2.1%
Media	20	9	45%	2.7%
House Rep/Ga St Senate	16	7	44%	2.1%
Other	36	18	50%	5.4%
Not Identified	---	7	---	2.1%
Total	522	332	64%	100.0%

Table 3: Complete Listing of Potential Research Topics (ranked)

Shaded cells show highest scores for each group. Parentheses show differences in the rankings produced by unweighted and weighted means. Questions were 1-to-5, with 5 being "very useful." QUESTION: HOW USEFUL WOULD IT BE...	UNWEIGHTED. Mean of Means. Each group has equal influence, regardless of size. SCORE RANK		WEIGHTED. Mean of all respondents regardless of group. Heavily influenced by Corrections RANK SCORE		Group 1 Corrections mean n=175	Group 2 Judiciary mean n=45	Group 3 Law Enforcement mean n=50	Group 4 Public Representatives mean n=62
13)...to know which alternative works best for what type of offender?	4.55	1	1	4.63	4.76	4.64	4.34	4.46
19)...to know why Georgia has such a high incarceration rate?	4.40	2	2	4.43	4.45	4.22	4.26	4.65
22)...to know what significant factors make a parolee successful (e.g., family, employment)?	4.27	3	3	4.39	4.59	4.18	4.12	4.18
12)...to know what the sentence and actual punishment are for different types of crimes, for different types of courts, and for different parts of the State?	4.22	4	4	4.27	4.35	4.09	4.06	4.36
25)...to know the impact of probation sentence(s) on an offender (e.g., likelihood of further arrests, technical violations, types of offenders more suited to probation)?	4.20	(5)	(6)	4.21	4.23	4.24	4.18	4.16
18)...to know if drug abuse treatment in a community setting is as effective as in-patient treatment?	4.12	(6)	(5)	4.24	4.43	4.18	3.82	4.05
07)...to be able to follow individual criminals as they move through the criminal justice system (law enforcement to courts to prison to parole)?	4.10	7	7	4.20	4.39	4.02	3.94	4.06
03)...to investigate the effect of heavier DUI penalties since 1983 on court processes and corrections?	4.03	8	8	4.10	4.19	3.93	3.86	4.12
01)...to document the drug crime problem statewide through the entire criminal justice system, not just at time of arrest?	4.03	(9)	(14)	4.02	3.98	3.71	4.24	4.20
06)...to determine the effect on court process and overall performance of increasing criminal caseloads?	4.03	(10)	(16)	3.94	3.81	4.21	4.04	4.05
21)...to have information about the criminal cycle (i.e., from juvenile through adult) of a particular offender group (e.g., property offenders, sex offenders, female offenders)?	4.02	(11)	(12)	4.06	4.13	3.93	4.04	3.98
23)...to know the impact on an offender of fines and restitution obligations?	4.02	(12)	(15)	4.01	4.01	4.09	4.02	3.97
14)...to know what the impact is on the system of judicial discretion in sentencing?	4.00	(13)	(11)	4.06	4.13	3.81	3.96	4.10
20)...to profile drug offenders and their involvement with drugs (e.g., sellers vs. users, drugs used, treatment history)?	4.00	(14)	(13)	4.05	4.16	3.89	4.24	3.69
15)...to know how, in a time of limited resources, we decide which offenders get help and what kind of help (treatment, support programs) they get?	3.98	(15)	(9)	4.10	4.29	3.86	3.76	4.00
17)...to know which correctional education/vocational programs are meeting the need to provide skilled, employable workers for the 90's?	3.92	(16)	(10)	4.07	4.31	3.73	3.80	3.85
09)...to know the costs (time, salaries, other resources) required to process a case at each stage of the criminal justice system?	3.92	17	17	3.89	3.78	3.82	3.96	4.13
08)...to measure the backlog of cases at each stage of the criminal justice system?	3.79	(18)	(20)	3.76	3.71	3.79	3.86	3.81
11)...to know the effects of federal money on the operation of criminal justice agencies in Georgia?	3.77	(19)	(21)	3.71	3.61	3.73	4.04	3.70
10)...to know the impact of the criminal justice system on other governmental systems (e.g., civil trials, unemployment, mental health)?	3.76	(20)	(19)	3.80	3.84	3.59	3.66	3.95
24)...to know the reliability of in-prison Disciplinary Reports in predicting the future criminal behavior of an offender?	3.72	(21)	(18)	3.83	4.03	3.56	3.68	3.61
02)...to investigate the relationship of domestic violence and homicide?	3.71	22	22	3.60	3.43	3.69	3.90	3.82
05)...to investigate whether there is any effect on juvenile delinquency as well as status offense rate by in-school suspension and truancy intervention programs?	3.68	23	23	3.59	3.41	3.77	3.56	3.98
16)...to know what relationships exist between the criminal justice community and other parts of society?	3.56	24	24	3.59	3.63	3.31	3.76	3.53
26)...to know about the mobility of offenders (e.g., types of offenders most likely to travel to other states/countries to commit crimes)?	3.47	25	25	3.47	3.48	3.07	4.00	3.31
04)...to investigate the similarity of types of crimes committed in rural versus urban communities?	3.32	26	26	3.36	3.39	2.89	3.36	3.62

"Corrections" includes GDC (85), Parole Board (71), and Youth Services (19). "Judiciary" includes juvenile judges (7), adult judges (29), and DA's (9). "Law Enforcement" includes Sheriffs (26), Police (18), GBI (4), and DPS (2). "Public Representatives" includes Academics (13), Private Corps (4), County Commissioners (4), Gov's Drug Commission (1), Victim Witness Program (1), House Research (2), OPB (3), Education Dept (1), LBO (3), Community Affairs (1), DHR (3), Media (9), HOR/GSS (7), GMA (3), Not Identified (7).

Table 4: Factor Analysis of 26 Items

QUESTION: How useful would it be...	FACTOR			
	1	2	3	4
ISSUES RELATED TO CRIME				
1)...to document the drug crime problem statewide through the entire criminal justice system, not just at time of arrest?			.60	
2)...to investigate the relationship of domestic violence and homicide?			.59	
3)...to investigate the effect of heavier DUI penalties since 1983 on court processes and corrections?		.58		
4)...to investigate the similarity of types of crimes committed in rural versus urban communities?			.67	
5)...to investigate whether there is any effect on juvenile delinquent as well as status offense rate by in-school suspension and truancy intervention programs?			.44	
6)...to determine the effect on court process and overall performance of increasing criminal caseloads?		.62		
ISSUES RELATED TO PROCESS				
7)...to be able to follow individual criminals as they move through the criminal justice system (law enforcement to courts to prison to parole)?				.53
8)...to measure the backlog of cases at each stage of the criminal justice system?		.76		
9)...to know the costs (time, salaries, other resources) required to process a case at each stage of the criminal justice system?		.68		
10)...to know the impact of the criminal justice system on other governmental systems (e.g., civil trials, unemployment, mental health)?			.42	
11)...to know the effects of federal money on the operation of criminal justice agencies in Georgia?		.42		
12)...to know what the sentence and actual punishment are for different types of crimes, for different types of courts, and for different parts of the State?		.45		
ISSUES RELATED TO THE SYSTEM				
13)...to know which alternative works best for what type of offender?	.62			
14)...to know what the impact is on the system of judicial discretion in sentencing?	.53			
15)...to know how, in a time of limited resources, we decide which offenders get help and what kind of help (treatment, support programs) they get?	.65			
16)...to know what relationships exist between the criminal justice community and other parts of society?			.53	
17)...to know which correctional education/vocational programs are meeting the need to provide skilled, employable workers for the 90's?	.66			
18)...to know if drug abuse treatment in a community setting is as effective as in-patient treatment?	.74			
19)...to know why Georgia has such a high incarceration rate?	.45			
ISSUES RELATED TO OFFENDERS				
20)...to profile drug offenders and their involvement with drugs (e.g., sellers vs. users, drugs used, treatment history)?				.48
21)...to have information about the criminal cycle (i.e., from juvenile through adult) of a particular offender group (e.g., property offenders, sex offenders, female offenders)?			.48	
22)...to know what significant factors make a parolee successful (e.g., family, employment)?				.54
23)...to know the impact on an offender of fines and restitution obligations?	.65			
24)...to know the reliability of in-prison Disciplinary Reports in predicting the future criminal behavior of an offender?				.56
25)...to know the impact of probation sentence(s) on an offender (e.g., likelihood of further arrests, technical violations, types of offenders more suited to probation)?	.62			
26)...to know about the mobility of offenders (e.g., types of offenders most likely to travel to other states/countries to commit crimes)?				.62

Explanation Of Variance In Factor Structure

Factor 1: 31.8%
 Factor 2: 7.9%
 Factor 3: 5.3%
 Factor 4: 4.7%

Table 5: Suggestions for Additional Research Topics

(Responses were edited to maintain brevity and avoid duplication)

Issues Related to Crime

- Racially motivated crimes
- Impact of crime on victims (victimization, treatment in the system; result of restitution, use of victim impact statements; difficulties of victims in domestic cases (domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault) resources available to victims through the system, etc.)
- The relationship between education (achievement), self-esteem, and juvenile offenses
- Murders committed by people who have mental problems
- Impact of crime on victims and communities
- Do any of the following predict lawlessness: education level, home-owner vs renter vs homeless, hours worked per week, welfare history, zoned or un-zoned neighborhoods?
- Juvenile gangs in Georgia's major cities
- Number and type of crimes related to substance abuse (e.g., procurement vs influence)
- The impact the juvenile justice system has on crime
- Relationship of type of crime to recidivism rate
- Do genes of certain families or people play a role one way or the other within the criminal element?
- Relationship between education and reduction of crime and drug use
- The percentage of whites/minorities arrested for drug violations, and sentenced to prison
- Age at which offenders became identified as a "problem"
- The relationship between divorce and crime
- Crime rates related to populations at risk
- What impact does our long drawn-out appeal process have on crime?
- Recidivism rates for different categories

Issues Related to Process

- Fines, forfeitures, and seizures by jurisdiction
- Data on bond collection
- The case load of appellate courts. What to do to decrease it?
- The revocation rate of and reasons for parole
- Percentage of cases handled by nolle prosequi or other extraordinary non-prosecutive actions
- Pre-trial diversion programs in Georgia; percentage of cases disposed of through pre-trial suspension?
- The impact of the use of a day-fine (pro-rata fine) on repeat criminal behavior?
- Crowded court calendars
- Community expectations role in a judge's disposition/sentencing?
- Extent of disparity in sentencing across circuits, combined with offender/offense characteristics
- A comparison of the types of sentences for murder in the 50 states short of the death penalty What guaranteed service do other jurisdictions have? How many have life without parole? What is the correlation, if any, between the number of times death is sought in a state and the lack of guaranteed parole-free sentences? Do we seek the death penalty due to a lack of alternatives? What states give judges some control over the parole of murderers?
- The time it takes to process a case
- Rate of reversals on and bases for appeal
- Reasons for revocations (i.e., technical, new offenses)
- Effects of plea bargaining/early release in assaultive cases on likelihood of recidivism?
- What impact would uniform sentencing have on offenders? How difficult would uniform sentencing be to implement at the state level, and how would it effect the prison system?

Issues Related to System

- Statewide sharing of drug targets and investigation
- Which juvenile programs are effective/not effective

- Alternatives to incarceration
- Sentencing vs actual time served
- Dispositions/sentences match the expectations of the community
- Effect of consolidated law enforcement agencies on crime, arrest, conviction rates
- Correlation among length of sentence, actual amount of drugs involved, race, judicial jurisdictions, numbers of persons charged and sentenced, specific amount of drugs involved, length of time served
- The number of law enforcement officers and the number of arrests and prosecutions
- What is the true effect criminal justice agencies are having on the drug problem?
- Effect plea bargaining has on system (effectiveness)
- Number of school dropouts per year who end up in system; what impact early counseling (K-8) in schools has on prevention; what impact programmed after-school activities has on prevention
- The cost of "barracks type" prisons as opposed to brick and mortar
- Determine the impact of the early release of offenders, i.e., Grid System
- Determine the impact of prison overcrowding
- Effectiveness of full-time courts vs part-time courts
- What is true value of boot camps, rate of return versus cost?
- The impact of new sentencing legislation on the criminal justice system
- The success rate of offenders involved in drug treatment programs for offenders only as compared to programs that also include non-offenders
- Information related to providing treatment of substance abuse as an alternative to incarceration
- What percentage of offenders are raised in a single-parent household
- Success rates or likelihood of success of people who complete some kind of treatment while in prison
- Success rates as they relate to length of incarceration
- Effect of extensive use of work release for non-violent offenders on prison overcrowding
- What effect promoting work ethic and good work programs would have on recidivist rate?
- Can parole be effective when it is used as a mechanism to control prison overcrowding?
- The relationship between time served and probation/parole success
- How effective the Department of Human Resources is in protecting the community from habitual offenders (juvenile) and in providing meaningful programs for the youth committed to its care
- Model for measuring recidivism
- Model for assessment of successful interventions (drugs, sex, violent offenders)
- Judges' perception of sentencing someone to probation, then allowing the Probation Division to place the offender in the appropriate alternative?
- Classification and impact on assignments to prisons, programs, and outside details
- Security classification vs risk to public
- Forecast flow rate and volume of convicted offenders out of the courts and into the corrections system
- What programs are best suited for youthful drug offenders -- i.e., treatment while incarcerated?
- What drug interventions and/or treatment programs have a long-term effect on offenders What surveillance or supervision programs work? Outside assessment of these programs or methods to avoid biased reports
- How effective counseling services are in the correctional field?
- The success of current A/D counseling programs employed in the Georgia Dept of Corrections and their effectiveness in deterring future drug usage and/or criminal activity
- Statistics to support/refute that alternative programs to incarceration reduce the recidivism rate
- What percentage of confined inmates who can work actually "work"?
- The impact of remedial, ABE, GED, and college degrees on released inmates
- Would there be any advantages to legalize cocaine? This would sure cut down on all types of crime
- Networking among the federally-funded multi-jurisdictional task forces to insure: 1) effectiveness of task force; 2) there are no duplications of efforts
- The impact on Georgia jails of drug users
- Biographical information (patterns) of superior court judges, prosecutors, and corrections officials
- Sentencing - what ranges of punishment are assured by different judges, different circuits, etc.

- What role and/or program can the government play in encouraging citizens not to violate the law?
- Employment and training of all criminal justice personnel
- The effect of jail overcrowding on the court process
- How effective is community supervision?
- The cost of street crime vs prison
- How useful would it be to pass US criminal justice crime control fund to the local level as opposed to increasing federal criminal justice agencies?

Issues Related to Offenders

- Profiles of (un)successful probationers/parolees (adult, juveniles)
- Cost/benefit of intensive Parole/Probation supervision vs incarceration
- Statewide tracking of career criminals
- Alternatives to prison overcrowding
- Education level of offenders by type of offense
- What percent of juvenile offenders appear later in the adult system?
- The effect of drivers license suspensions for VGCSA violators
- Why blacks comprise such a large percentage of VGCSA violators at the juvenile level
- Arrest and offenders by race. More socioeconomic data for offenders
- Recidivism rates for various sentences (probation, shock incarceration, split and prison sentences)
- Does length of incarceration change rate of recidivism?
- Litigation by inmates and success on parole within 5 years
- The number of repeat offenders who are released early from prison
- What is the recidivist rate for each type of offense, including parole and/or probation revocation rate?
- What is recidivist rate from detention centers and are any in store for parole?
- Percentage of inmates who received sentences for drug-related offense receiving treatment prior to parole, and how this compares to those directed to receive treatment upon release on parole
- The success rate of offenders who seek help for substance abuse as compared to those for whom treatment is mandated
- Do prisoners tend to make "better" parolees if they remain in custody longer rather than serving only short periods of confinement?
- Who are "significant others" from whom the offender would accept positive advice
- How does a parolee's success/failure relate to alcohol or drugs?
- What effect does current probation/parole supervision have on an offender?
- Success rates of people who serve a period on parole versus those who serve full terms (if there are any of those left)
- Relationship of domestic violence/child abuse and substance abuse
- The age at first offense
- The education level of each offender
- The relationship of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual) and female offender crimes
- A breakdown by offense as relates to drug offenders in the state prison system
- The job skills of offenders when they enter the state system
- What percentage of pretrial detainees are being held for drug-related offenses? Are repeat offenders? What is the average length of incarceration for the above group?