Regional Criminal Justice Information

The Criminal Justice (CJ) research section of SANDAG’s Applied Research Division, in conjunction with the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS), is an essential source of regional information on public safety, health, substance abuse, crime and arrest, and crime prevention strategies. Among the topics of CJ’s comprehensive publications are regional crime and arrest statistics, offender reentry, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, cross-border drug trafficking prevention, and gang suppression strategies.

Information Clearinghouse

Local policymakers depend on CJ’s research and mapping capabilities to assist them to determine “what works” to reduce crime and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

- **Crime and Arrest:** With cooperation from regional law enforcement agencies, CJ compiles and maintains historic and current crime and arrest data, as well as characteristics of victims and suspects.
- **Substance Abuse:** As part of the Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) project, CJ conducts confidential interviews with recently arrested individuals to ask about drug use history. SAM data are used as a platform for other research projects and are useful to service providers and decision makers in guiding treatment policy.
- **Timely Publications:** CJ releases annual publications describing regional arrest and crime data; drug use trends; and public safety expenditures and staffing. On a monthly basis, we prepare the CJ Flash presenting data on trending issues of interest to our stakeholders. Our publications can be found at www.sandag.org/cjpubs.

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Experienced Staff: CJ staff encompasses diverse professional and cultural backgrounds and possesses strong technical skills, all of which enhance CJ’s research services. Our staff serves on a wide variety of professional forums, such as the Methamphetamine Strike Force, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, and Community Corrections Partnership. We are available to give dynamic and informative presentations on current topics regarding public safety issues and how resources can be used to address them.

Research and Evaluation
CJ is committed to the tenets of action research in every evaluation it conducts, and we demonstrate this commitment by providing “real-time” feedback to project stakeholders. CJ provides a broad spectrum of independent evaluation and needs assessment. Our research services include surveys, interviews, focus groups, environmental scans, GIS analyses, advanced statistical analyses, cost-benefit analyses, literature reviews, and written reports. CJ has long-standing cooperative relationships with local justice agencies that provide our research team the access to database records necessary to conduct locally-funded studies and fulfill national research contract commitments. CJ’s work program for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 includes many projects that vary in subject area, scope, and duration.

Juvenile Delinquency: CJ has over 30 years of expertise evaluating juvenile crime and delinquency prevention efforts. Data collection methods include archival analysis from files, interviews, surveys, assessments, and cost-benefit analyses. These evaluations are led by staff with extensive education and field experience and who are skilled at maintaining close ties with key partners, from line staff to top administrators. Partners include the San Diego County Probation Department, community-based service organizations, schools, and drug treatment providers.

Gang Suppression: For more than two decades, CJ has been actively involved in regional efforts to reduce gang activity as the evaluator in several gang suppression activities, including the Cities of San Diego and Vista CalGRIP programs, Project Safe Neighborhoods, and the San Diego Police Department’s SMART project. CJ partnered with the North County Comprehensive Gang Initiative Steering Committee to conduct a regional gang assessment and assist in the development of a standardized documentation of gang-motivated crimes.

Adult Offender Reentry: CJ has conducted several formal evaluations of offender reentry programs and our research team stays abreast on evidence-based practices that enhance an individual’s successful return to the community. With the passage of AB 109 (Public Safety Realignment), CJ has played a key role in providing timely data to stakeholders as these systemic changes unfold, affecting all parts of the criminal justice system. In 2012, CJ was selected to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the region’s implementation of realignment and we are an original partner of the San Diego County Community Corrections Partnership. CJ is currently evaluating the Probation Department’s implementation of best practices for community supervision under Senate Bill 678, and we were recently selected by the Sheriff’s Department as research partner to evaluate their Veterans Moving Forward program located at the Vista Detention Facility.

For more information about CJ
Go to www.sandag.org/cj.

To be added to our distribution list, email Liz.Doroski@sandag.org.

Thank you for your interest.