

Several projects have laid the foundation for national and state-by-state baselines: Kids Count, the National Youth Survey, OJJDP's Causes and Correlates Research Program, the Six State Communities that Care Pilot Program, and InfoNation. The key issue concerns the feasibility of nationwide establishment, at the State level, of reporting requirements necessary to generate comparable data.

OJJDP will explore the feasibility of establishing comparable measurements of risk and protective factors, and prevalence measures for delinquency and other problem behaviors, at the individual, community, State, and national levels. This effort will involve a wide range of expertise, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. OJJDP will examine the most direct and efficient manner of gathering these indicators. In particular, OJJDP will explore cooperation with other Federal agencies. Once the nature of this project has been finalized, OJJDP will make a subsequent announcement.

#### Juveniles in the Criminal Justice System

Policymakers and legislators seeking data on how juveniles get to criminal court and on rates of conviction and sentencing, treatment, and conditions of confinement have found that existing information is often inadequate to help them make decisions about legislation, policy, and program development.

OJJDP, in cooperation with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), seeks to identify and fill these data gaps by working collaboratively with interested State and local officials. Through OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Statistics and Systems Development Program, a series of meetings will be convened involving prosecutors, judges, corrections officials, State Statistical Analysis Centers, researchers, and staff from OJJDP, NIJ, and BJS. The purpose of the meetings will be to plan multi-jurisdictional studies of the transfer process and its outcomes. The project also will identify information needs to recommend for inclusion in the BJS National Survey of State Prosecutors.

A number of multi-agency planning teams will be invited to assist in the collaborative design of the studies by identifying core data elements and definitions for cross-jurisdictional collection and analysis. The design process will be informed by a literature review and the identification of existing studies and data sets for secondary analysis to fill immediate gaps. A detailed review of the Government Accounting Office's pending waiver study will inform the project as to the

feasibility of certain options. No funds will be awarded in fiscal year 1995.

#### National Program Directory—\$100,000

To further develop OJJDP's statistical capability, OJJDP will create a National Program Directory. This directory will contain the names and addresses of specific juvenile justice programs along with important identifying information and will include prosecutors, juvenile probation departments, juvenile court judges, mental health agencies, youth welfare agencies, and other executive branch juvenile justice agencies. OJJDP will use the directory as a sampling frame for future surveys.

An important feature of this project is a series of Quick Response Surveys (QRS). Each QRS addresses a specific problem and is directed to a specific group of respondents. The goal of each QRS will be to provide vital information quickly on emerging problems and issues. QRS' will be made possible through Census Bureau development of program and facility directories on juvenile courts, detention centers, and long-term State confinement facilities. These surveys will address such issues as: characteristics of assaultive behaviors, juveniles in police lock-ups, juvenile sex offenders, family issues, and overcrowding.

The initial phase of this project will focus on developing a directory structure, collecting core information, and developing a QRS strategy. These funds will be transferred to the Census Bureau through an interagency agreement.

#### Integrated Juvenile Justice, Mental Health and Child Welfare Data Collection

Recent research has documented the co-occurrence of delinquency, mental health problems, drug and alcohol abuse, and child abuse and neglect. However, linkage of client data from the juvenile justice system with data from the mental health and child welfare systems is not possible with current data collection mechanisms.

Information is needed on how the child welfare and mental health systems function as diversion programs and as providers of alternative incarceration for problem youth not served by the juvenile justice system. Ways of linking these data collection systems would be explored in order to: (1) Understand the interrelationships of the three systems, (2) develop models that coordinate the actions of the three systems, and (3) integrate them into a continuum of care.

OJJDP will support a planning effort to map out steps toward integrated juvenile justice, mental health, and

child welfare data collection. OJJDP will carry this work out in collaboration with other Federal agencies that have an interest in the objectives of this program, including the National Institute of Mental Health; the Center for Mental Health Services; the National Institute on Drug Abuse; the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse; the Administration on Children, Youth and Families; and the Social Security Administration. This project will also involve practitioners and researchers from the mental health, juvenile justice, and child welfare fields. OJJDP's Statistics and Systems Development Program will provide staff support for this planning activity, including conducting a literature review, identifying useful data sets for secondary analysis, and convening planning meetings. The results will include recommendations for future implementation steps.

OJJDP's current Statistics and System Development Program grantee, the National Center for Juvenile Justice, will conduct this program activity. No funds will be awarded in fiscal year 1995.

#### OJJDP Management Evaluation Contract—\$360,000

The purpose of this contract is to provide OJJDP with an expert resource capable of performing independent, management-oriented evaluations of selected OJJDP programs. Evaluations will determine the effectiveness and efficiency of either individual projects or groups of projects.

Evaluations could include demonstrations, tests, training, and technical assistance programs. Evaluations will be requested through work orders issued by OJJDP and carried out in accordance with work plans prepared by the contractor and approved by OJJDP. Each evaluation will be defined by OJJDP and costs, method, and timetable determined through negotiation between OJJDP and the contractor. The contract will be funded through a competitive award in fiscal year 1995.

#### Technical Assistance for State Legislatures—\$262,500

State legislatures are being pressed to respond to public fear of juvenile crime, and a loss of confidence in the capability of the juvenile justice system to respond effectively. For the most part, State legislatures have had insufficient information to properly address juvenile justice issues. Consequently, OJJDP will award a grant to the National Conference of State Legislatures to identify, analyze, and disseminate information to help State legislatures