



VT Department of Public Safety



## **Vermont's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) & Crime Research Group (CRG)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is a Statistical Analysis Center?**

A Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) is a state-level organization created to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice to Federal, state, and local levels of government, and to share state-level information nationally. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is specifically authorized by statute (42 U.S.C. § 3732) to provide support to state and territorial governments for the establishment and operation of SACs.

SACs use information from all diverse areas of the criminal justice system to conduct objective analyses to inform policy and practice at the state and local levels. The research provides essential evidence that policymakers use to guide decision-making. The SACs perform a variety of activities including:

- Collecting, analyzing, and distributing criminal justice data
- Conducting policy-relevant research
- Further the use of evidence-based practices in their states
- Promote the effective and efficient administration of criminal and juvenile justice

#### **Which States/Territories have a SAC?**

There are currently SACs in 51 States and Territories. Thirty-two are housed in the State Administering Agencies (DPS), 8 are housed in other state departments, and 6 are in universities.

#### **When was the SAC established in Vermont?**

The SAC was established in Vermont in 1987 at the Vermont Center for Justice Research (VCJR). The SAC remained at VCJR until November 2014, when it was moved to the Department of Public Safety (Executive Order #06-14).

#### **Why was the Department of Public Safety designated as Vermont's SAC?**

The SAC was moved to the Department of Public Safety in 2014 because of its role as the State Administering Agency (SAA). SAAs are entities within state and territorial governments that are responsible for comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy development.

## **What is the relationship between the Department of Public Safety and the Crime Research Group?**

The Department of Public Safety contracts with the Crime Research Group, Inc. (CRG) to conduct activities associated with standard SAC services. CRG is a Vermont non-profit organization formed in 2014 with staff from the Vermont Center for Justice Research (the former Vermont SAC designee). CRG's purpose is to provide research to policymakers, the public and private sector, and the community to encourage evidence-informed practices to promote a fair and effective justice system.

**CRG is the only organization in Vermont that focuses on crime-related data analysis, research, and evaluation.**

## **What exactly does Crime Research Group do under the SAC contract?**

Under the contract with the Department of Public Safety, CRG performs the following SAC services:

1. Administration & Coordination
2. Data Collection, Analysis & Research
3. Contract & Grant Writing
4. Training & Technical Assistance

The work CRG performs within these four categories includes: Coordinating statewide justice research planning; facilitating communications between justice agencies and organizations; developing research partnerships to support grant submissions; providing assistance with data requests; maintaining databases for analysis; providing technical assistance on data and analysis; and conducting trainings to build statewide justice research and evaluation capacity.

In addition, CRG provides services related to the annual State Justice Statistics (SJS) grant awarded by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). This grant program is limited to SACs and offers support for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of statistical information on crime and criminal justice at the state and local level. Projects vary from year to year. Below is an example of projects either completed or currently being worked on funded under the BJS SJS grant:

1. Law Enforcement Data Sharing & Data Quality
2. Criminal History Data Quality
3. Traffic Stops & Race
4. Opiates & Property Crimes
5. Offender Characteristics
6. Victimization of and Criminal Justice Response to Vulnerable Adults & the Elderly
7. Rural and Urban Domestic Violence in Vermont
8. Equal Access to Alternative Programs
9. Probation and Parole