

2005 Needs assessment data relevant to integration

The 2005 Criminal Justice Needs Assessment is a replication of a similar project conducted by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in the mid 1990s. In this most recent project criminal justice system professionals across the state responded to lengthy surveys, which included several topics related to the integration of justice information systems. When these responses are analyzed, they will give us data on the statewide and regional integration needs of the Illinois justice system. The following questions were asked as part of the needs assessment survey instrument and may be relevant to the Implementation Board's integration efforts.

Police chiefs were asked the following questions.¹

Generally, Chiefs were asked to indicate whether certain approaches or technologies were available and if so, to explain how much improvement is needed (i.e., needs little or no improvement, needs some moderate improvement, or needs major improvement). Where the approach or technology was unavailable, respondents were asked whether it needed to be developed.

- (1) Responses to Drug Problems.** Please indicate whether the following approaches to drug problems need improvement in your jurisdiction.
 - (a)** Computer system for intelligence information
 - (b)** Crime analysis unit

- (2) Staff Training.** Please indicate whether improvement is needed in police officer training in each of the following areas.
 - (a)** Criminal history implementation
 - (b)** Report writing
 - (c)** Use of LEADS
 - (d)** Warrant processing

- (3) Field Operations Activity.** Please indicate whether improvement is needed in each of the following field operations activities in your department.
 - (a)** Coordination with other jurisdictions

- (4) Investigative Activities.** Please indicate whether the following investigative activities are ongoing and indicate how much improvement is needed.
 - (a)** Automated Fingerprint Information Systems (AFIS)
 - (b)** Computer systems to support investigations
 - (c)** Crime analysis / mapping
 - (d)** Criminal history records system
 - (e)** Sex offender registration

- (5) Management Information Systems.**
 - (a)** Please indicate whether the following Automated Information Systems or System Modules need improvement in your department.
 - (1)** Booking System
 - (2)** Computer systems to support investigations
 - (3)** Crime analysis / mapping
 - (4)** LIVESCAN
 - (5)** LEADS
 - (6)** Orders of protection
 - (b)** Are any of your systems linked to other criminal justice automated information systems?

State's attorneys were asked the following questions.²

Generally, state's attorneys were asked to indicate whether certain factors, practices, or technologies were available and if so, to explain how much improvement is needed (i.e., needs little or no improvement, needs some moderate improvement, or needs major improvement). Where the factor, practice, or technology was unavailable, respondents were asked whether it needed to be developed.

- (1) Case Timeliness.** Please indicate whether any of the following need improvement to effect more timely processing of causes in your office.
 - (a)** Court computer information systems
 - (b)** Procedures for witness notification

- (2) Staff Training.** Please indicate whether improvement is needed in training assistant state's attorneys in each of the following areas.
 - (a)** Interpretation of criminal history

- (3) Pretrial Practices.** Please indicate whether the following pretrial practices need improvement.
 - (a)** Accuracy of name and addresses information for witnesses
 - (b)** Information on defendant criminal history
 - (c)** Police preparation of crime reports

- (4) Other Operations and Procedures.** Please indicate whether the following resources related to courtroom operations and procedures need improvement.
 - (a)** Court reporting system
 - (b)** Criminal history records
 - (c)** Electronic Filing
 - (d)** Electronic Access

- (5) Other Operations and Procedures.** Please indicate whether the following resources related to courtroom operations and procedures need improvement.
 - (a)** Court reporting system
 - (b)** Criminal history records
 - (c)** Electronic Filing
 - (d)** Electronic Access

- (6) Management Information Systems.**
 - (a)** Please indicate the degree to which your office needs automated information systems improvement in the following areas.
 - (1)** Arresting officer names
 - (2)** Assistant state's attorneys assigned
 - (3)** Bail/jail status of defendants
 - (4)** Court schedules
 - (5)** Dates of hearings
 - (6)** Defendant tracking information
 - (7)** Information on co-defendant
 - (8)** Order of protection
 - (9)** Original police changes
 - (10)** Prior criminal history of defendant
 - (11)** Victim/witness names
 - (b)** Are any of your systems linked to other criminal justice automated information systems?

Circuit court clerks were asked the following questions.³

Generally, court clerks were asked to indicate whether certain practices or technologies were available, and if so, to explain how much improvement is needed (i.e., needs little or no improvement, needs some moderate improvement, or needs major improvement). Where the practice or technology was unavailable, respondents were asked whether it needed to be developed.

- (1) Court Procedures.** Please indicate the degree (i.e., not a contributor, moderate contributor, major contributor, or not applicable) to which the following procedures contribute to the workload in your office.
 - (a)** Disposition reporting
 - (b)** Recording / filing
 - (c)** Record searches / requests
 - (d)** Warrant production

- (2) Staff Training.** Please indicate whether improvement is needed in each of the following areas.
 - (a)** Disposition reporting

- (3) Court Management Needs.** Please indicate whether the following court management areas need improvement in your office.
 - (a)** Recording / filing
 - (b)** Warrant production

- (4) Management Information Systems.**
 - (a)** Please indicate whether improvements are needed in each of the following information systems areas.
 - (1)** Attorney assignment
 - (2)** Continuances
 - (3)** Dates of hearings
 - (4)** Disposition reporting
 - (5)** Orders of protection
 - (6)** Prior criminal history of defendant
 - (7)** Records database
 - (8)** Warrants
 - (c)** Are any of your systems linked to other criminal justice automated information systems?

Probation departments were asked the following questions.⁴

Generally, probation officials were asked to indicate whether certain practices or technologies were available, and if so, to explain how much improvement is needed (i.e., needs little or no improvement, needs some moderate improvement, or needs major improvement). Where the practice or technology was unavailable, respondents were asked whether it needed to be developed.

- (1) Court Procedures.** Please indicate the degree (i.e., not a contributor, moderate contributor, major contributor, or not applicable) to which the following procedures contribute to the workload in your agency.
 - (a)** Criminal history checks
 - (b)** Presentence investigations

- (2) Staff Training.** Please indicate whether improvement is needed in each of the following training areas.

- (a) Information systems
 - (b) Interpretation of criminal history
- (3) **Management Information Systems.**
- (a) Please indicate whether improvements are needed in each of the following information systems areas.
 - (1) Case management
 - (2) Management reports
 - (b) Are any of your systems linked to other criminal justice automated information systems?

Public defender offices were asked the following questions.⁵

Generally, public defenders were asked to indicate whether certain factors, practices, or technologies were available, and if so, to explain how much improvement is needed (i.e., needs little or no improvement, needs some moderate improvement, or needs major improvement). Where the factor, practice, or technology was unavailable, respondents were asked whether it needed to be developed.

- (1) **Case Timelines.** Please indicate the degree to which the following policies and procedures need improvement in regard to timeliness of case processing in your criminal court.
 - (a) Court computer information systems
 - (b) Procedures for witness notification
- (2) **Staff training.** Please indicate whether improvement is needed in training attorneys in each of the following areas.
 - (a) Interpretation of criminal history
- (3) **Pretrial Practices.** Please indicate whether the following pretrial practices need improvement in your court systems.
 - (a) Accuracy of name and address information for witnesses
 - (b) Information on defendant criminal history
 - (c) Police preparation of crime reports
- (4) **Other Operations and Procedures.** Please indicate whether the following resources related to courtroom operations and procedures need improvement.
 - (a) Court reporting system
 - (b) Criminal history records
 - (c) Electronic Filing
 - (d) Electronic Access
- (5) **Management Information Systems.**
 - (a) Please indicate the degree to which your office needs automated information systems improvement in the following areas.
 - (1) Arresting officer names
 - (2) Attorneys assigned
 - (3) Bail/jail status of defendants
 - (4) Court schedules
 - (5) Dates of hearings
 - (6) Defendant tracking information
 - (7) Information on co-defendant
 - (8) Order of protection
 - (9) Original police changes

- (10) Speedy trial status
- (11) Victim/witness names
- (b) Are any of your systems linked to other criminal justice automated information systems?

Operations and procedures of all agencies

All the criminal justice agencies surveyed were asked to indicate how frequently (i.e., very often, often, seldom, or never) they work with certain state and local justice agencies. Specifically, agencies were asked to indicate the level of frequency with which they worked with the following agencies.

- (1) **State/Multi-Jurisdictional Criminal Justice Agencies:**
 - (a) Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
 - (b) Appellate Defender
 - (c) Appellate Prosecutor
 - (d) Attorney General
 - (e) Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 - (f) Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
 - (g) Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
 - (h) Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
 - (i) Illinois Department of Corrections
 - (j) Illinois Department of Health & Human Services
 - (k) Illinois Emergency Management
 - (l) Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission
 - (m) Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
 - (n) Illinois Secretary of State
 - (o) Illinois State Police
 - (p) Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
 - (q) Multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement unit (e.g., Metropolitan Enforcement Group or Drug Task Force)
- (2) **Other Agencies:**
 - (a) Local school districts
 - (b) Local law enforcement
 - (c) Local state's attorney
 - (d) Local social service agencies
 - (e) Local treatment service providers
 - (f) Local hospitals & healthcare providers
 - (g) Local probation
 - (h) Other victim service providers (domestic violence, rape crisis and child advocacy centers)

¹ 334 police chiefs responded to the survey.

² 47 state's attorney's offices responded to the survey.

³ 51 circuit court clerks responded to the survey.

⁴ 61 probation departments responded to the survey.

⁵ 42 public defender offices responded to the survey.