

Crime and Justice Statistics Roundtable

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Why are crime and justice statistics important?

- Accountability, transparency and democracy
- Component of social and economic wellbeing: visibility to an area of social concern
- Evidence in a politicised space
- Performance measurement
- “What works” evaluation support
- Informed decision making for policy designers, operational and support activities, strategic planning, research and community



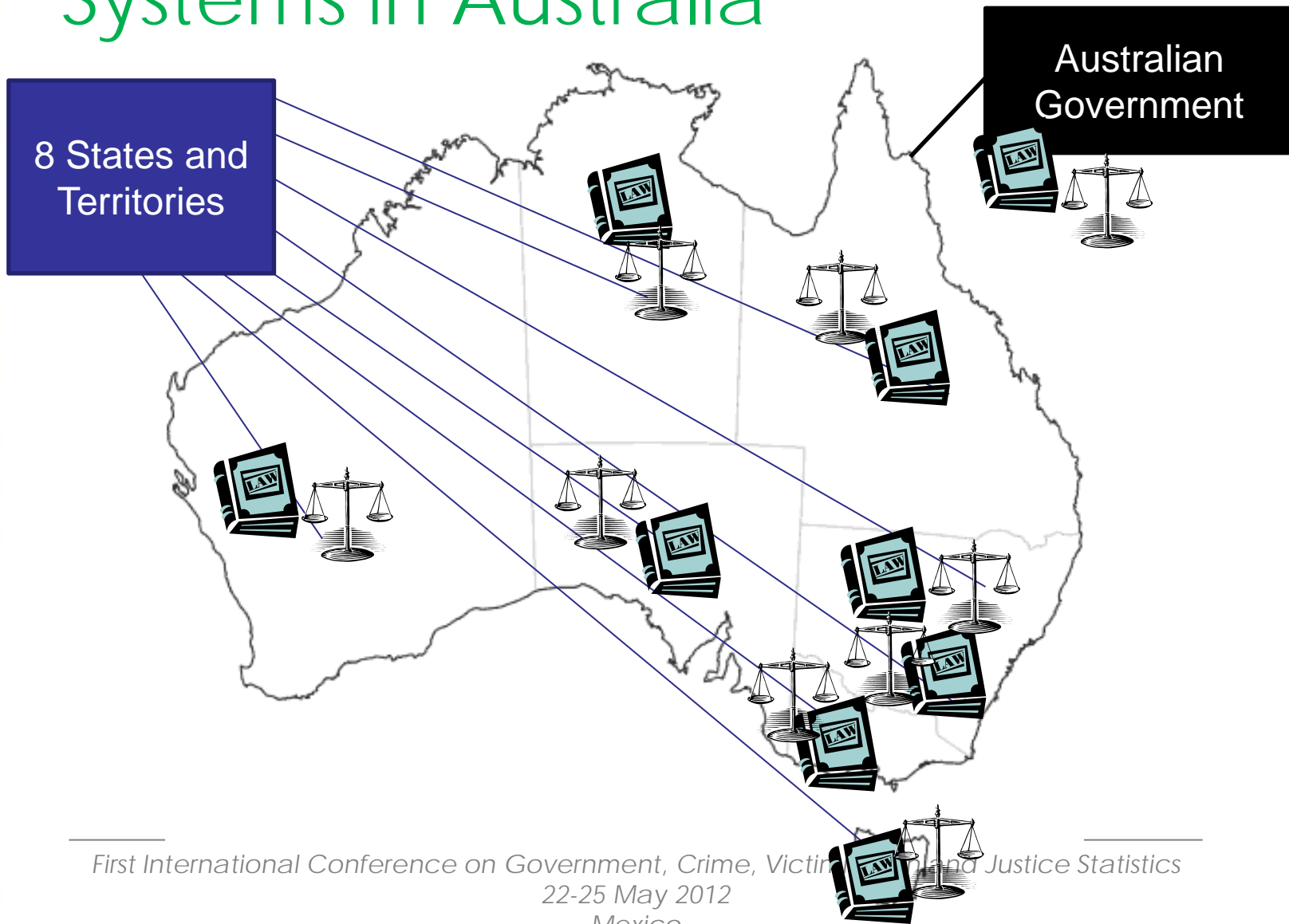
Relevance of Crime and Justice Statistics for policy making

- Informed decision-making and evidence-based policy
- Key questions: who, what, when and how?
- Relevant for crime prevention, operational planning, design and evaluation of interventions, forecasting, cost benefit analysis
- Alternative sources of information?

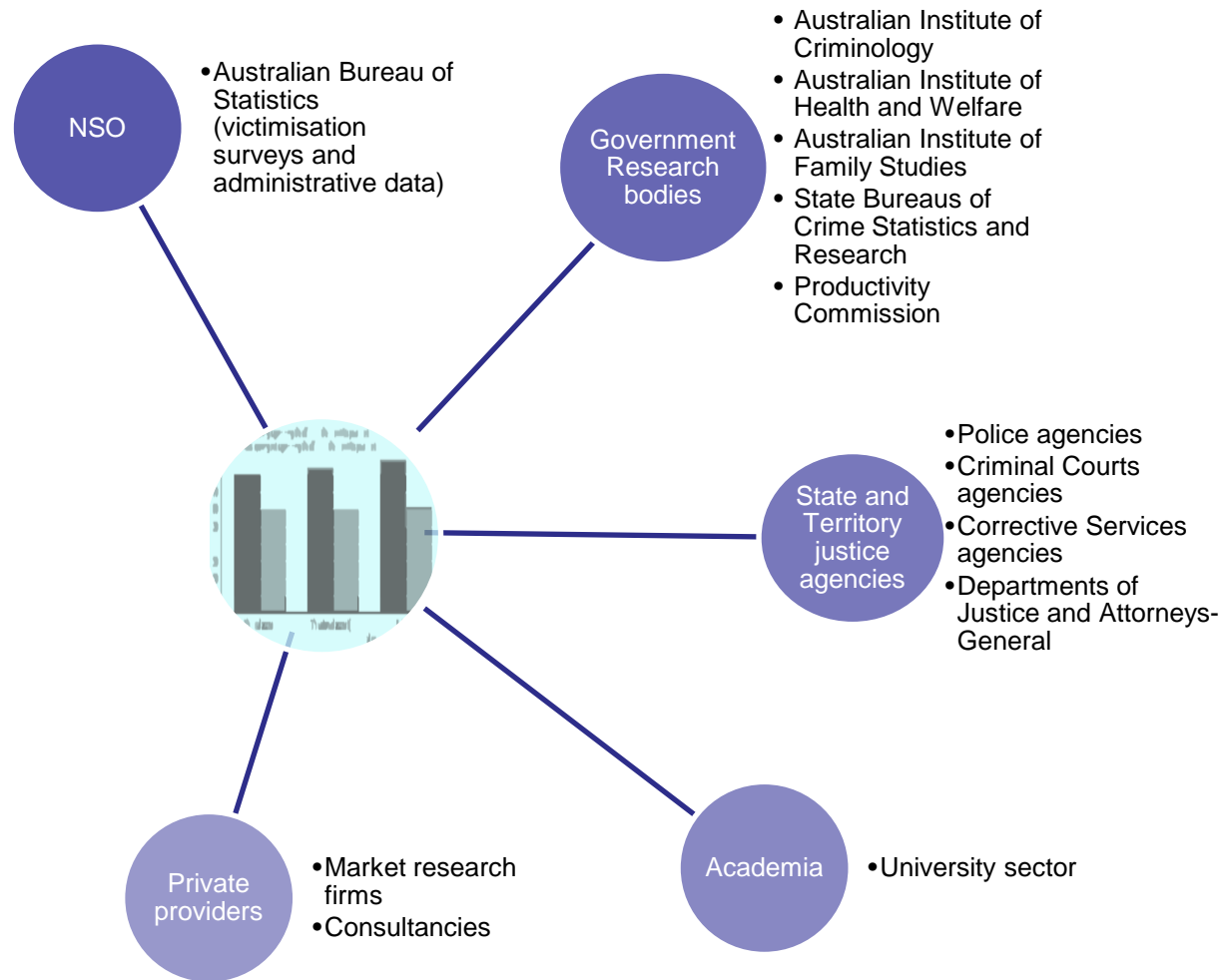
Crime and Justice Statistical Systems in Australia



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The Australian Experience: crime and justice statistics



The Australian Experience: crime and justice statistics

Crime and Justice Statistical System comprises:

- many data collectors and custodians across the crime and justice sector
- a set of complementary national collections (administrative by-product data, surveys, multi-mode compilation)
- Some shared statistical infrastructure and frameworks
- Adoption of a shared data quality framework
- Statistical initiatives such as principles for data integration, Measures of Australia's Progress, etc.

The Australian Experience: crime and justice statistics

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975, Section 6(1) :

- a) To constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the Governments of the States, provide statistical services for those Governments;
Central Statistical Authority serving Government
- b) To collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information;
Statistical production and dissemination
- c) To ensure co-ordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to:
Statistical co-ordination
 - i. The avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes;
avoid duplication
 - ii. The attainment of comparability between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies; and
comparability and integration
 - iii. The maximum possible utilisation, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;
efficiency in collection and exploitation of statistical assets
- d) To formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes;
Standards and quality
- e) To provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics; and
Statistical leadership
- f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters.
International statistical collaboration and co-ordination

The role of NSOs in crime and justice statistical system

- Production of independent, authoritative statistics using administrative and survey methodologies
- Equally important – statistical leadership and co-ordination – (quality, standards, efficiency)
- Partnership with legal agencies and institutions is essential

The role of NSOs in crime and justice statistical system

- Helping data users understand fragmented data
- Building statistical capability for data custodians and user community

How to improve crime statistics

- Linkages to key statistical frameworks, crime and justice data important beyond the sector
- Strong engagement with the sector and an aim of building collaborative partnerships
- Coordination across a whole statistical system – not simply silo activity controlled by an NSO, justice agencies or alternative providers
- Focus on all dimensions of quality, including coverage, comparability and accessibility
- Greater international collaboration across nations
 - especially to respond to emerging, transnational and complex crimes
 - foster efficiency and comparison opportunities across jurisdictions
- Build statistical literacy and capability in the field, media, etc.



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