

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 (SAA). In Vermont, the SAA is the Department of Public Safety. There are 8 housed in other state departments, and 6 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 after a deliberative process with criminal justice stakeholders who recommended the SAC move to DPS. Additionally, DPS serves in the role of the State Administering Agency (SAA). SAAs are responsible for comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy development and administering formula grants from U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs.

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), including the original founders of the SAC initiative in Vermont. CRG is governed by a volunteer board of directors. 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.

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

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; responding to data requests; maintaining databases for analysis; providing technical assistance on data and analysis; and conducting trainings to build statewide justice research and evaluation capacity. CRG performs these functions independent of DPS.

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. All completed reports are available on the [CRG website](#).

1. The Intersection of Law Enforcement and Mental Health
2. Relief from Abuse Orders and Firearms Relinquishment
3. A Study of Violations of Conditions of Release
4. Victimization of and Criminal Justice Response to Vulnerable Adults & the Elderly
5. Equal Access to Alternative Programs
6. Retrospective Study for the Use of the Arnold Public Safety Assessment

CRG also engages in contracts with other entities. Below is a list of other organizations that CRG has contracted directly with to perform research or program evaluations. All completed reports are available on the [CRG website](#).

1. Vermont Joint Fiscal Office
2. Direct legislative appropriations
3. Office of Defender General
4. Office of the Attorney General
5. Office of State's Attorneys and Sherrif
6. Department of Corrections
7. Lamoille County Restorative Center
8. Burlington Community Justice Center
9. Circle
10. Department for Children and Families Services
11. Criminal Justice Training Council
12. Chittenden County Rapid Intervention Court
13. Network on Sexual and Domestic Violence
14. City of Rutland
15. Vermont League of Cities and Towns
16. Vermont Judiciary
17. Arnold Foundation
18. Pew Charitable Trusts
19. Lund Family Services
20. National Institute of Justice
21. Children's Bureau