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# Access to Justice Data Research Data Centres & Real Time Remote Access

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# Justice Files

## **Files currently available in RDC & RTRA**

- Uniform Crime Reporting Incident Based Survey (UCR)
- Homicide Survey
- Hate Crime Supplement to UCR

## **Forthcoming (planned for winter 2015-2016)**

- Integrated Criminal Courts Survey (ICCS)

# Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Incident Based Survey

- Measures the incidence of police reported crime in Canada
- Close to 100% coverage, national, provincial, CMA and non CMA
- UCR generates micro data for the purposes of examining characteristics of victims, accused and incidents



# UCR Incident Based Survey

- Captures data on more than 200 *Criminal Code* offences
- Violent crime
  - Violations causing death, sexual & physical assaults, robbery, extortion, violations resulting in the deprivation of freedom
- Property Crime
  - Arson, break & enter, shoplifting, mischief
- Other Crime
  - Impaired driving, prostitution, possession of weapons, counterfeiting
- Drug Related Crime
  - Possession, trafficking, importation, production

# Uniform Crime Reporting Incident Based Crime Survey

- UCR Incident-based survey has 3 micro data files
  - Incident file
  - Charged/Suspect Chargeable (aka CSC or Accused) file
  - Victim file (violent incidents only)
- Each file can be used independently or they can be linked – depending on the research question.
- Each file has a significant number of records

# Uniform Crime Reporting Incident Based Crime Survey

- Need a clear understanding of the unit of count
  - How many incidents of robbery in Canada? (incident file only)
  - How many victims of robbery in Canada?  
(victim file only)
  - How many robbery victims robbed in the early evening in Ont.? (victim and incident files)
  - How many robbery victims, victimized by a male offender in Ont.? (victim and csc files)
  - How many offenders charged with robbery in Ont.? (csc file only)

# UCR Variables INCLUDED on the RDC/ RTRA -- Incident File

- Location
  - private dwelling, school, institution, open area, streets, etc.
- Time and Date of Incident
  - can use together with location for more nuanced analysis
- Occupancy
  - indicates whether the victim and/or accused were living at a residence (if applicable)
- Geography
  - Provincial, territorial, CMA and Non CMA
- Most Serious Weapon Present

# UCR Variables INCLUDED on the RDC/ RTRA – Accused & Victim Files

## **CSC (ACCUSED) FILE**

- Age
- Sex
- Date charges laid

## **VICTIM FILE**

- Age
- Sex
- Relationship to the accused
- Injury sustained
- Weapon causing injury

# How many years of data are available?

- 5 years of data
  - RDC -- 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
  - RTRA -- 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Increases N for small cells
- NO TREND analysis
  - Look at aggregated counts of incidents, victims, etc over a 5 year period
  - Look at individual years of data
  - Population data included to produce rates
    - Including population by age group and sex

# Aggregated Response Categories and Violations

- Incident Clearance Status: some Cleared  
Otherwise
  - E.g., death of a complainant, the suicide or death of the accused; accused sent to a psychiatric facility.
- Incident Time
  - Researcher must collapse the time into 6-hour intervals.
- Sensitive violation codes
  - Other sexual violations
  - Homicide



# UCR Variables EXCLUDED from RDC/RTRA Files

## **Variables with unknown or poor data quality**

- Address, postal code: a.k.a. geocodes
- Aboriginal origin of accused/victim

# Research Questions UCR Survey

- Intimate partner violence
- Family related violence
- Violence against children and youth
- Youth crime – patterns, characteristics
- Adult crime – patterns, characteristic
- Temporal patterns of crime



# Research Questions UCR Survey (cont'd)

- Crimes involving weapons
- Family verses non-family victimization
- Gender differences – Offending
- Gender differences – Victimization
- Property crimes, CMA & non-CMA
- Robbery crimes, CMA & non-CMA

# UCR Incident Based Survey End-User Documentation

- User-friendly
- Detailed confidentiality guidelines & vetting rules
- Scoring guide
- Rounding option
- List of variables that are collapsed/aggregated
- SAS coding examples
- Variable definitions & descriptions

# Homicide Survey

- Provide information on the nature and extent of homicide in Canada.
- Data provided by police services across Canada.

# What kinds of data are available from the Homicide Survey?

- Data available from 1961-2011
- 3 Files – Incident, Victim, Accused
- Detailed reporting on:
  - Marital status
  - Detailed location
  - Drugs related homicide (motive)
  - Precipitating crime
  - Alcohol/ drugs consumed (accused or victim)
  - Apparent motive
  - Accused-victim relationship
  - Cause of death

# Homicide Survey Pilot, 2013

- Development of user-friendly disclosure rules to ensure confidentiality of data
  - Because of small numbers Homicide Survey presents a unique challenge with regard to confidentiality
  
- Approach for disclosure rules similar to UCR

# Homicide Survey Disclosure Rules

- Variables deemed NOT sensitive
  - 10-year data
  - National data
  - Sex of victim, accused

# Research Questions

## Homicide Survey

- Family related homicides
  - Who's most at risk: age of victims? Age of accused? Motives?
- Intimate partner homicides

Who's most at risk: age of victims? Age of accused? Motives?
- Homicide by relationship type
  - Strangers, business relationships
- Temporal analysis
  - Interesting to combine with location

# Research Questions Homicide Survey (con't)

- Firearm related homicides
  - Characteristics of homicides involving firearms
- Youth victims and youth accused of homicides
- CMA and non-CMA analysis
- Precipitating factors
  - Motive: e.g. Anger, reprisal, settling of scores, jealousy, etc.
  - Associated offence: e.g. drug related?

# UCR Hate Crime Supplement

- Additional data file which is linked to the UCR Incident-based survey
  
- Police services determine if the criminal act was motivated by hate of:
  - Race, age, sex, religion
  - Sexual orientation, physical disability
  - Language, color, nationality, ethnicity

# Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS)

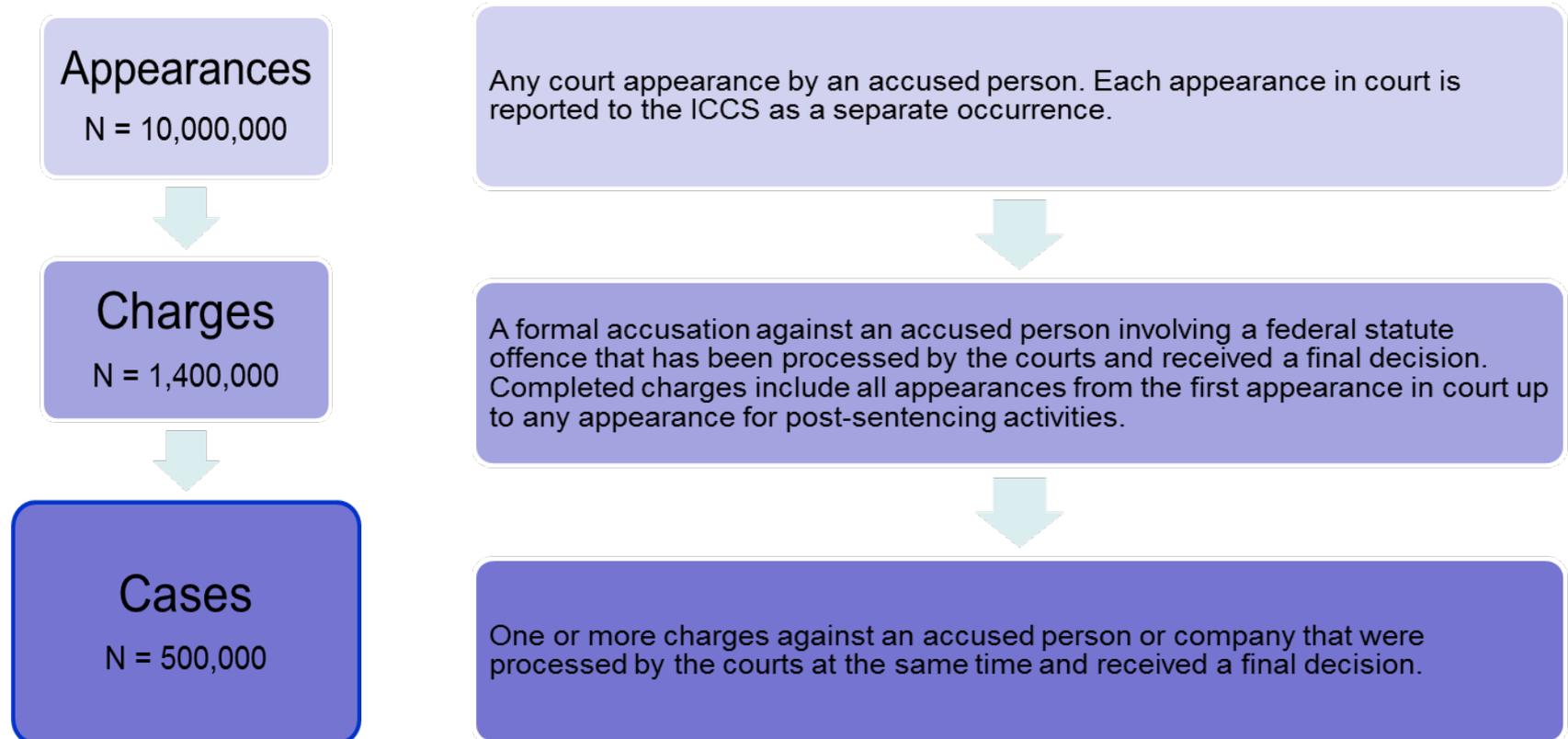
- National criminal court database of information on appearances, charges, and cases for youth and adults appearing in court
- Includes pending and completed federal statute charges heard in youth and adult (provincial and superior) criminal courts
- Compiles charges against accused persons and companies into cases
- Data available at the national and provincial/territorial level

# What is ICCS trying to measure?

- Court activity (appearances, charges, and cases) completed by reference period (fiscal year)
- Case characteristics
  - Types of offences
  - Decisions (e.g., guilty, acquitted)
  - Outcomes/sentencing details (e.g., custody, probation, fine)
  - Elapsed time to case completion
- Characteristics of the accused (e.g., age, sex)

# ICCS – Units of Count

Each survey cycle, the ICCS collects *appearances* and derives two basic units of count: *completed charges* and *completed cases* (the primary unit of analysis).



# Research Questions

## Integrated Criminal Court Survey

- Types of analysis: examples
  - Case processing time
  - Completed cases by *Criminal Code* section
  - Characteristics of completed cases by type of decision (guilty, acquittal, etc.)
  - Trends in completed cases including a preliminary inquiry
  - These analyses can be done at the national and provincial level
  - Gender analyses; analyses of youth, adult

# Confidentiality Measures for the RDC/RTRA files

- Characteristics of individual incidents, accused or victims will not be disseminated to the public.
- Outputs are assessed using confidentiality risk scores with set acceptable thresholds
  - RDCs only
- Outputs are subjected to a controlled rounding program applied to the output
  - Automatically applied to RTRA outputs



# Impact of rounding

Offence	Actual	Rounded
Attempted Murder	13	15
Aggravated Sexual Assault	2	5
Sexual Assault with a Weapon	11	10
Sexual Assault	587	585
Sexual Interference	54	55
Aggravated Assault - Level 3	24	25
Assault Against Peace-Public Officer	2	0
Aggravated Assault Against Peace Officer	1	0
Abduction Under 14, by Parent/Guardian	5	5
Robbery	1457	1455
Criminal Harassment	201	200
Indecent/Harassing Telephone Calls	63	65
Uttering Threat to Person	449	450
Arson – Disregard for Human Life	5	5
Other Violations against the person	12	15

# What to use: RDC or RTRA?

## RDC

- Modeling, regression analysis
- Descriptive analysis of violations with small counts
  
- Confidentiality measures: Disclosure rules, based on scores and a cap or rounding
- Detailed vetting process

## RTRA

- Descriptive statistics of offences that are common, large geography (i.e., national and provincial , CMA and non-CMA)
  
- Confidentiality measures: Rounding program (base 5)
- Automated vetting
- No deemed employee status required



# Questions?

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