

CAPSA

Census of Adult Probation Supervising Agencies

What Is CAPSA?

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is sponsoring the Census of Adult Probation Supervising Agencies (CAPSA)—a special nationwide project that will provide a clear understanding of current adult probation supervision policies and practices and the types of individuals who are supervised by probation agencies. BJS is collaborating with Westat and the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) to conduct the census.

Who Will Be Asked to Participate?

The goal of CAPSA is to identify all public agencies and private companies in the country that supervise felons on adult probation (or felons and misdemeanants). All agencies and companies that are believed to meet this criteria will be asked questions to determine their eligibility for CAPSA. Those agencies that are eligible will be asked additional questions about the topics listed in this brochure (see *What Information Will CAPSA Collect?*).

What Will Agencies Be Asked to Do?

A core component of CAPSA is a nationwide survey of public agencies and private companies. Public agency and private company heads will be asked to designate appropriate staff to complete the survey. Public agency respondents will be provided instructions on how to access the survey online or complete the survey by telephone. The website will be secure and will allow respondents to save and close the survey at any time and re-open it later to continue or edit answers until they are ready to submit their final responses. The online survey is estimated to take an average of about 65 minutes. Private company respondents will be asked to complete a paper survey that is estimated to take about 30 minutes on average.

What Information Will CAPSA Collect?

Topics addressed in the survey include:

- Populations served
- Policies and practices
 - Methods of supervision (e.g., electronic supervision, intensive supervision, programs and services for special populations)
 - Risk and needs assessment
 - Firearms policies and arrest powers of supervision officers
- Supervision authority
 - To impose conditions
 - To grant early positive discharge
 - To impose a period of incarceration
- Funding sources
- Sector (i.e., public agency, private company)
- Branch and level of government, if a public agency

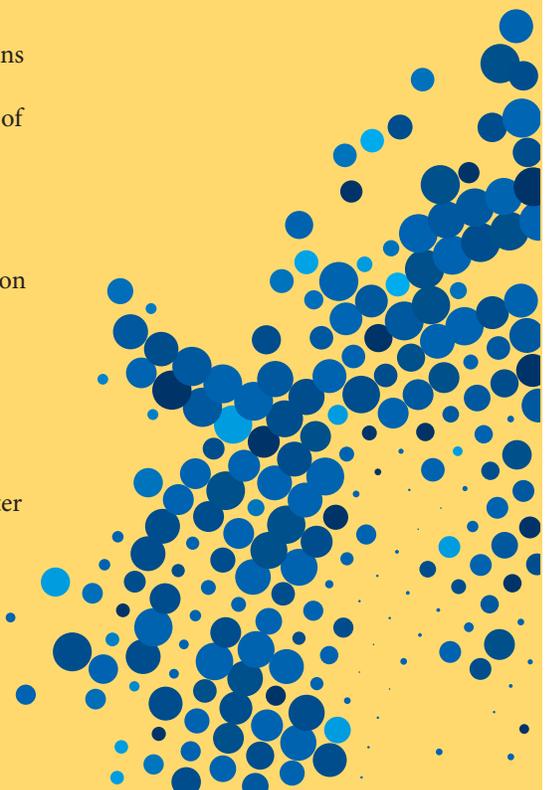
To minimize burden on agencies, the questionnaire only includes a few questions that ask for counts (e.g., number of probationers under supervision, number of supervision officers).

How Will the Data Be Used?

CAPSA will provide important information to states and localities to assist in their policy development and criminal justice planning. It will help address current information gaps identified by the community corrections field and give policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders a better understanding of the current nature of adult probation in the United States, and the supervision policies and practices agencies have in place to administer adult probation.

Why Should My Agency Respond to CAPSA?

CAPSA is critical to our understanding of correctional systems nationwide, and for policy development and criminal justice planning at all levels of government. The study will provide clear, comprehensive descriptions of the current organization of adult probation in the United States and the varying structures and nature of adult probation both across and within states. Statistical products will provide data that can serve as a benchmark, and the standardized questionnaire and definitions will permit states and localities to rely on the CAPSA data to assess their probation agencies relative to all probation agencies nationwide as well as among those with similar characteristics.



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How Can I Find Out More About CAPSA?

The Westat CAPSA Agency Support Team will be happy to answer any questions you may have about CAPSA.

CAPSA, Agency Support Team

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