



# Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

## National Consortium for Assessing Drug Control Initiatives

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) established the National Consortium for Assessing Drug Control Initiatives within the Criminal Justice Statistics Association (CJSA) to enhance the States' capabilities to analyze and evaluate drug control and system improvement programs. The Consortium is a joint project of BJA, CJSA, the State Administrative Agencies (SAA), and the Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC) to develop common approaches to monitoring the implementation of statewide drug strategies; assessing their impact; and providing policymakers at the Federal, State, and municipal levels with feedback on the effectiveness of specific drug control strategies.

### History of the Consortium

States receiving BJA Formula Grant funding are required by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to develop a statewide drug strategy as part of their annual grant applications. States must review, amend, and update their strategies annually, and any modifications to strategies must be based on analyses of the impact of ongoing drug control efforts.

In early 1988, BJA established the Consortium Project to serve as a forum for States to work together in identifying and collecting performance monitoring data and in using the data to assess the impact of their strategies. The Consortium Project began as a 15-State effort and expanded to include 28 States in 1989. The Consortium also began providing technical assistance to the 50 States and territories directly through a series of reports and technical assistance documents.

### Goals

The National Consortium for Assessing Drug Control Initiatives is designed to:

- facilitate collection of consistent and comparable data from all SAAs and to report performance on grant projects; and
- enhance the States' capabilities to analyze and evaluate drug-control system improvement programs and projects.

### Objectives

The FY 1991 Consortium Project will focus on facilitating the direct participation of officials and staff from the SAAs and SACs in all 50 States and the territories. Other objectives include:

- development of automated data-capture applications for use by State agencies;
- assistance in collecting and analyzing drug program performance monitoring data;
- development of a range of technical assistance and training services which are easily accessible; and
- provision of national performance monitoring reports on critical components of drug control strategies.

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## Providing Assistance to the State Administrative Agencies

The following types of assistance will be available through the Consortium Project:

### Technical Assistance

Technical support will be provided to BJA and the States to identify and develop new data collection components keyed to the program focus of the States' annual drug control strategies.

### Training

- Instruction and guidance for installing automated monitoring of task forces and other funded programs.
- Transfer of data from automated systems to a national performance monitoring data base.
- Development of performance monitoring systems at the State and program levels.
- Identification and use of software packages for planning and policy analysis; application of statistical analysis techniques using general purpose statistical packages; and use of graphics packages for data analysis and presentation.

### Technical Assistance and Training Delivery Mechanisms

Delivery mechanisms provided by CJSA will include:

- easy phone access to answer questions and provide assistance;
- training classes offered by the CJSA National Computer Center; and
- on-site visits to teach classes, provide special assistance, and demonstrate computer programs.

### Products Currently Available from the Consortium Project

- Performance monitoring data collection guidelines for multi-jurisdictional task forces, crime labs, and treatment programs.

- Data collection guidelines for State drug offender processing studies.
- Technical assistance document for conducting statewide opinion surveys.
- 1988 reports on multi-jurisdictional task forces, crime labs, and State surveys.
- A monograph on evaluating juvenile justice programs.

## For More Information About the Consortium Project and Services Contact

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