

RAPID POLICY ASSESSMENT: PROJECT PARIVARTAN



Module II: Existing Data

***Topic Areas:
Law Enforcement***

Tools

Law Enforcement Data

In this part of Module II of the RPA, researchers gather and analyze existing data about crime and the operation of the criminal justice system.

Purpose

The information collected will provide a foundation upon which to build the remaining research of the RPA. Criminal justice statistics are an important measure of crime, the extent of the country's reliance on incarceration, and the extent of drug use.

Process:

This tool includes the following three steps:

Step 1: Obtain data

Be sure that each table or other data item you find is clearly labeled as to source and time period covered.

As you collect data, compare what you find with the domains below to check how well you are doing. Do NOT stop just because you find one source of data covering a topic on the list, because different sources may have different statistics on the same disease or behavior.

We expect that most of the data sources you find will be in tables or contain tables. There is no need to re-enter the data or create new tables in most cases.

Reports and published studies or reviews will often include analysis and discussion of the most important data and trends in the epidemic. Part of the work of this Module is to identify and summarize these expert assessments.

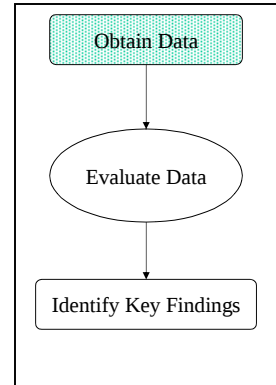
Step 2: Assign a number or other identifier to each data source or set of data and fill out the Data Evaluation Form for each one. Sometimes one source, such as a national AIDS center, will provide more than one set of data. Evaluate each set independently.

Step 3: Review the data and identify and list key findings on the Key Findings Form.

Step 1: Obtaining Data

- Domains: In each area, use existing information or data coming out of the qualitative interviews to identify specific offenses relevant to each domain. For example, arrests of MSMs may not be made based on the sodomy statutes, but on public indecency charges. For each crime identified as relevant, collect:

- 1) Statistics:
 - a) Arrests
 - b) Prosecutions
 - c) Convictions
 - d) Sentences



Where possible, collect data that breaks down statistics by gender, ethnicity, age or other demographic criteria.

- 2) Analysis and discussion
 - a) Identifying the most important data
 - b) Summarizing any trends or important points identified in criminological reports or studies.

1.0 Criminal law domains:

1.1 [reserved]

1.2.[reserved]

1.3 [reserved]

1.4 Sex work and trafficking

1.4.1 Violations of explicit laws on sex work

- By gender?
- By other specifics (selling, buying, running a brothel, etc)

1.4.2 Violations of other statutes frequently applied to sex workers

1.5 Homosexual identity or behavior

- By gender
- By particular behavior

2.0 [reserved]

3.0 Data on civil law suits:

- Are there data on numbers and outcomes of anti-discrimination claims brought by HIV+ persons?
- Are there data on numbers and outcomes of privacy claims brought by HIV+ persons?

4.0 Are there data on the structure, personnel and resources of the legal system?

- Numbers of police, prosecutors, judges, and salaries of each group
- Budgets, distribution of court houses and jails
- Backlog, if any of cases in the court system

5.0 Are there data on incarceration?

- The number of people held in pretrial detention?
- The average time in pretrial detention?
- The number of people held in jails and prisons
- The estimated capacity of jails and prisons
- Number of people on post-sentence supervision (parole)
- Number of people receiving alternatives to incarceration (probation, community service, mandatory drug treatment)
- Do any of these data specify numbers for sex work related incarceration?

6.0 Are there data on the availability of private or publicly funded lawyers for people charged with crimes?

Step 2: Evaluate Data

Assign a number or other identifier to the data and fill out the Data Evaluation Form

For each source from which you have obtained data, and for distinct sets of data from a single source, use the Data Evaluation Form to record source, citation, and any important information about the reliability or availability of the information.

Complete citation - For all data, make sure you have a complete citation for the source. Then assign a number or other unique identifier to the source. This number will allow you to identify the source easily, and to refer to the source in other tables and forms. Record both citation and source on the data evaluation form.

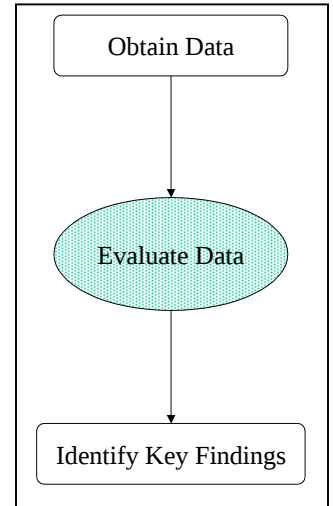
A single source, may provide more than one relevant data set. In such cases, assign a different identifier to each data set and evaluate them separately.

In the box on disease or topic give a short description of the basic subject matter of the source.

In the box on limitations on validity, record any limitations on the validity or accuracy of the data of which you are aware.

In the box on notes on access record any barriers to access you encountered.

See form in previous section.



Step 3: Identify Key Findings

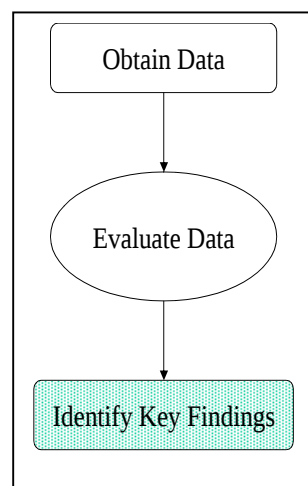
Review the data and identify and list key findings on the Key Findings Form

At the end of each part of this module, we ask researchers to review the data they have collected to identify key findings. Researchers will have available the published statistics as well as the discussion and analysis in any published papers. The goal of this step is to identify the important information that can be used in the RPAR.

To identify key findings you should do several things. One is to note the important, relevant conclusions of the studies and reports you reviewed, these will usually appear in “Discussion” “Findings” “Conclusions” sections of the report. Not all findings or conclusions of all reports will be relevant to this project, but some may be. Additionally, you must look at the actual data for important findings. Some examples follow.

Important information to look for:

- Trends (changes over time) of the same disease or behavior in the same group. For example, are the numbers of cases of HIV (or AIDS, or TB, or hepatitis) among IDUs increasing or decreasing? Are the numbers of IDUs in treatment up, down, or remaining steady? Are arrests up or down for possession of heroin?
- Changes geographically. Are different parts of the city, region or country reporting disease (drug resistant TB) or behavior (methamphetamine use) that was previously rare?
- Changes among demographic groups. Has the distribution of new HIV cases appeared to shift from IDUs to sexual partners of IDUs? Are many new cases in the 15-24 year old age group?
- Absolute numbers can also be noteworthy, even if the numbers do not represent a trend or change. For example, are there focal points, age, ethnic, or risk groups where the epidemic is particularly severe?



The Key Findings form will be used to prepare your presentation for the CAB and as part of your action planning process.

Data Evaluation Form

Source and Citation	Disease or topic	Limitations on validity	Notes on access

Key Findings Form

Topic Area: _____

Source	Key Findings: