

General Information

The 2014 National Survey of Tribal Court Systems (NSTCS), developed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), covers topics like tribal court administration, operations, staffing, caseloads, parole and probation, information systems, and more. This survey is being sent to all federally recognized tribes in the United States with a court system. The NSTCS will be administered on behalf of BJS by Kauffman & Associates, Inc., a Native-owned research firm.

This brochure is intended to give you a glimpse of survey questions so you can gather the information needed to complete the survey quickly and efficiently. The survey is made up of a mixture of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. It is understood that not all the categories will pertain to your tribal court, and the survey is designed to accommodate these variances. Upon completion of the study BJS will distribute the findings from the 2014 NSTCS.

If you have any questions,
please email NSTCS at:
NSTCS@kauffmaninc.com,
or call NSTCS at: 1-877-528-4025.

Section I. Information Systems Access and Data Entry

- Methods used to manage cases?
- How does your tribal court post registration information to the sex offender registry?
- Does your tribe operate its own victim notification system?
- Does your tribal court maintain a restraining order and/or protection order registry?



2014 National Survey of Tribal Court Systems

Lower 48 Survey

Reference List of Select Question Items

Section A. Tribal Justice Systems

- Total number of your enrolled tribal members in 2014?
- Total resident population on your reservation, tribal land, or village in 2014?
- Types of tribal court systems operating in your tribal jurisdiction?

Section B. Tribal Court Administration

- Number of civil cases filed in your tribal court in 2014? (Both traffic and non-traffic cases)
- Number of criminal cases filed in your tribal court in 2014?
- How are tribal laws and codes made available to the public?

Section C. Tribal Court System Operations

- How often does your tribal court hold sessions or hear cases?
- Fiscal year 2014 operational budget?
- Positions and services funded by your tribal court's operating budget in 2014?
- Types and number of personnel employed by your tribal court in 2014?
- Number of DUI/DWI convictions in 2014?
- Does your tribal court rely on county or local government social service agencies for court-ordered treatment in juvenile and/or family cases?

Section D. Appellate System

- Number of individual judges who hear each appellate court case?

Section E. Tribal Prosecution

- Qualifications required to serve as a chief or assistant prosecutor?
- How are prosecutor's office personnel selected for their positions (appointed, elected, hired under contract, or hired as a tribal employee)?

Section F. Public Defense and Civil Legal Services

- Qualifications required to serve as chief public defender, assistant public defender or a lay advocate?
- To whom does your tribe provide free criminal defense services?
- Who delivers your tribe's free criminal defense services?

Section G. Pretrial, Probation and Reentry Programs and Services

- Does your tribal court operate a:
 - Pre-trial diversion program
 - Pre-trial release program
 - Probation program
- Number of probation officers employed?
- Number of active probation cases in 2014?

Section H. Juvenile Cases

- Types of juvenile law-violating cases handled by your tribal court?
- Number of juvenile law-violating cases filed in 2014 (both delinquency and status offense cases)?
- Types of juvenile law-violating cases your tribal court handles?

- Who provides free legal representation in juvenile law-violating cases?
- Does your tribal court maintain a probation or parole function for juveniles?
- Number of child welfare or dependency cases filed in 2014?

Section I. Domestic Violence and Protection Orders

- Number of restraining orders and/or protection orders filed in 2014?
- Number of domestic violence cases filed in 2014?
- Does the state recognize restraining orders and/or protection orders issued from the

Section J. Enhanced Sentencing Authority

- Does your tribe currently exercise the enhanced sentencing authority provided by the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA)?
- If no, what factors (if any) has your tribe identified as preventing it from exercising the enhanced sentencing authority under TLOA?
- How does your tribal court record court proceedings?
- Criminal sentencing options currently used for adults?
- Alternatives to incarceration (other than probation)?