

2014 National Institute of Justice Geospatial Capabilities Survey

Pilot Test Report

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1. 2014 National Institute of Justice Geospatial Capabilities Survey Pilot Test

Conduct

The 2014 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Geospatial Capabilities Survey Pilot Test was conducted by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections and Technology Center (NLECTC) for Information and Geospatial Technologies Center of Excellence (COE), which is operated by The RAND Corporation. The RAND leader for the NIJ Geospatial Capabilities Survey task was responsible for all pilot test activities including contacting potential participants, providing access to the survey questionnaire and pilot test evaluation form, receiving responses, and conducting follow-up activities to encourage timely submissions. Pilot participants were nine law enforcement agencies recommended by the NIJ or the RAND COE. These nine participants were asked to receive the NIJ Geospatial Capabilities Survey invitation, access the survey questionnaire by a means detailed in the invitation, complete the questionnaire, complete a pilot test evaluation form, and return the completed questionnaires and pilot test evaluation forms. All nine pilot participants completed the questionnaire and pilot test evaluation form and returned both to RAND. All nine participants chose to participate in the pilot test using the electronic version of the questionnaire. Table 1 shows the pilot test participants identified by county and the amount of time each participant required to complete the survey questionnaire.

Table 1: 2014 NIJ Geospatial Survey Pilot Test Participants and Administration Times

Participant (identified by County)	Pilot Test Administration Time (survey questionnaire only)	Survey Questionnaire Status	Pilot Test Evaluation Form Status
Alexandria	90 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
Hennepin County	90 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
Jefferson County	60 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
King County	20 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
Maricopa County	28 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
Orange County, CA	20 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
Orange County, FL	30 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
Pierce County	45 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned
San Diego County	54 minutes	Completed and returned	Completed and returned

On average, participants completed the NIJ Geospatial Capabilities Survey questionnaire in 49 minutes with a range of 20 minutes to 90 minutes. The median time was 45 minutes

Feedback

The pilot test evaluation form was used to provide RAND feedback on the pilot test experience. The evaluation asked administrative questions like the amount of time required to complete the survey questionnaire, but primarily focused on the clarity of the questions, the clarity and completeness of the response options, and the availableness/accessibility of the information required to answer the questions.

Feedback from the pilot indicated that the instructions to the survey were clear and easy to follow. All pilot participants used the electronic version of the survey. One participant had difficulty accessing the website and RAND quickly diagnosed and fixed the problem. RAND considered every comment and if there was any indication that the question or response choices were not clear, the question or response was reworded to provide clarity. Where participants found response choices confusing, the response choices were reworded or modified to address the issue.

Syntheses of the feedback from the NIJ Geospatial Capabilities Survey Pilot Test are shown below. Table 2 shows the comments received regarding the clarity of the questions. Table 3 shows the comments received regarding the clarity of the response choices. Table 4 shows the feedback for the participant's ability to answer the question.

Table 2: Feedback Regarding Clarity of Survey Questions

Question #	Clarity of Question
Question 1	No such thing as nonsworn officers, should be nonsworn employee or civilian employee Wording: rephrase the question: In the Crime Analysis Unit how many...
Question 2	Including the supervisor?
Question 3	I missed the instruction to only record the highest level of education on the first go through -- might want to bold this
Question 4	Clear
Question 5	Not sure what is meant by software used to "maintain crime data." Do you meant "store" the data. I thought that was what you meant, but "store" might help separate out responses on all the different kinds of crime analysis software people use.
Question 6	It is hard for me to speak on the Chief's behalf
	Is the Chief supposed to complete the Chief questions (#6-#10, #36)?
	Do you really want me to go ask the Chief this question or should I guess? What about a question of do we utilize the following before asking why we are not fully utilizing it? We use some, but not all.
Question 7	It is hard for me to speak on the Chief's behalf
	Do you really want me to go ask the Chief this question or should I guess?
	Using "Department" right before "Department of Justice" is a little confusing -- might want to refer to the Police Department, then Department of Justice.
Question 8	Do you really want me to go ask the Chief this question or should I guess?
	It is hard for me to speak on the Chief's behalf
Question 9	Do you really want me to go ask the Chief this question or should I guess?
	It is hard for me to speak on the Chief's behalf
Question 10	Do you really want me to go ask the Chief this question or should I guess?
	It is hard for me to speak on the Chief's behalf
Question 11	This should be the first question!!
Question 12	Are you asking whether the people in the different units use the products/maps or whether they themselves use mapping software to create maps?
	An agency may have one or more crime mapping softwares. For example, the CAU uses ArcGIS, and others use ATAC RAIDS. Do you want to know only ArcGIS or both systems?
Question 13	Estimated guess; I don't accurately know this information
	I'm guessing because they were doing it before I got here. Our unit was started in 1999.
Question 14	Extensions (e.g. Spatial Analyst (r) for ArcGIS). Standalone (e.g. STAC, CrimeStat)
Question 15	For this question, do we complete all that apply (person had formal training, but also information instruction by colleague) or primary type of training?
Question 16	Most analysts consider hot spot maps and kernel density maps as synonymous.
Question 17	Clear
Question 18	Now called ArcGIS basic, ArcInfo is called ArcGIS Advanced.
Question 19	Clear
Question 20	Not sure what is meant here
Question 21	Confusing because you have incidents, then Part I & part II (which are subsets of incidents). Consider rewording to something like this: Incidents (Part I or "Major" Crimes Only); Incidents (Part II or "Minor" Crimes Only); Incidents (All Types)
Question 22	Clear
Question 23	You can use one or more types of geocoding, this should be an inclusive of all questions.
Question 24	Clear
Question 25	Clear
Question 26	Clear

Table 2: Feedback Regarding Clarity of Survey Questions (Continued)

Question #	Clarity of Question
	Give more examples
Question 27	Are you referring to scrubbed geocoded data? I thought that's what you meant, since there was a "None" option, but this could be more clearly stated, I think.
Question 28	I would ask either how many years, or give an example of how to answer this question. I almost put 10 years as an answer, then read it to answer 2003-current. It's a bit confusing.
Question 29	weird. It seems like the assumption is that geocoded data is separate from the RMS.
Question 30	Clear
Question 31	Clear
Question 32	Clear
Question 33	I was somewhat confused by this question. A range of examples might be helpful here.
Question 34	Clear
Question 35	Clear
Question 36	??? Not sure I understand the question. Plus am I supposed to guess how the Chief would respond? This question is a little weird, since the Chief is part of the department administration. For us, he's one of four.
Question 37	Clear
Question 38	Clear
Question 39	Clear

Table 3: Feedback Regarding Clarity of Response Choices

Question #	Clarity of Response Choices
Question 1	<p>We call non-sworn "civilians", they are not officers nonsworn officer isn't a term we use here. You are either sworn or not an officer. Just nonsworn or civilian would be more applicable to me.</p> <p>The term "nonsworn officers" was a little confusing -- analysts are usually referred to as "civilians"; wasn't sure if I should put zeros in every blank field where we didn't have part-time or full-time staff see above. Sorry, I combined them.</p>
Question 2	Clear
Question 3	Clear
Question 4	Clear
Question 5	Clear
Question 6	What if the Chief feels we are using mapping to our full capabilities?
Question 7	Clear
Question 8	Clear
Question 9	Clear
Question 10	Clear
Question 11	No yes answer
Question 11	You have an explanation for "if yes," however there is nowhere to click "yes".
Question 12	Clear
Question 13	Clear
Question 14	Clear
Question 15	Clear
Question 16	Clear
Question 17	Clear
Question 18	Clear
Question 19	Not sure what is meant by the response option "Mainframes" and "Servers." I know the four analysts with mapping have computers that are networked, and that we are supposed to pull basemaps from a server. Should I check server as well?
Question 20	Not sure what is meant by the response option "Mainframes" and "Servers." I know the four analysts with mapping have computers that are networked, and that we are supposed to pull basemaps from a server. Should I check server as well? Also, all four of the analyst computers are networked, but we always have trouble pulling mapping data off another person's computer; it's like they are standalone desktops in this respect.
Question 21	Clear
Question 22	Clear
Question 23	Clear
Question 24	We use different methods for different databases. For RMS data (basically incident/arrest/FI data for us) we rely on the data entry staff to transfer RMS address data from officer reports into a regional data warehouse in a standardized format. For CAD data, we use the method described in the "Other" response option.
Question 25	Clear
Question 26	Clear

Table 3: Feedback Regarding Clarity of Response Choices (continued)

Question #	Clarity of Response Choices
Question 27	Responses could differ for CAD and RMS systems Clear
Question 28	Responses could differ for CAD and RMS systems
Question 29	Responses could differ for CAD and RMS systems
Question 30	This is a tricky answer for California agencies due to different interpretations of the California Public Records Act. It might be helpful to have an explanation field for respondents. Also, I don't believe we've ever gotten a request for geocoded data from a State or Federal agency.
Question 31	Clear
Question 32	Clear
Question 33	Clear
Question 34	Clear
Question 35	There has to be a way you can indicate None or I do not know.
Question 36	Clear
Question 37	Clear
Question 38	Clear
Question 39	Clear

Table 4: Feedback Regarding Ability to Answer Question

Question #	Ability to Answer Question
Question 1	Able to answer
Question 2	Able to answer
Question 3	Able to answer
Question 4	Able to answer
Question 5	Able to answer
Question 6	Not high on priority I don't really understand this question...and you don't ask what you have incorporated as a department first and foremost. So you're assuming we all have no crime mapping ability?
Question 7	Not high on priority Able to answer
Question 8	Not high on priority
Question 9	Not high on priority
Question 10	Not high on priority
Question 11	Able to answer
Question 12	Able to answer
Question 13	This date was an estimate based on the analyst's personal memory
Question 14	Able to answer
Question 15	You may have all of the above types of training. You may have taken an introductory class, but then learned many of the intermediate/advanced techniques on your own. Or vice versa. So this question doesn't really clarify how you want someone who has both types of training answered.
Question 16	Able to answer
Question 17	Able to answer
Question 18	Able to answer
Question 19	Able to answer
Question 20	Not sure what is meant here, needs an example
Question 21	Able to answer
Question 22	Able to answer
Question 23	Able to answer
Question 24	Able to answer
Question 25	Able to answer
Question 26	Able to answer
Question 27	Able to answer
Question 28	Able to answer
Question 29	Able to answer
Question 30	Does not address Data Practice requests
Question 31	Able to answer
Question 32	Able to answer
Question 33	Able to answer
Question 34	Able to answer
Question 35	This information was not readily available, but I remember getting some funding from DHS for a plotter.
Question 36	Able to answer

Table 4: Feedback Regarding Ability to Answer Question (continued)

Question #	Ability to Answer Question
Question 37	Need more categories
	Have not heard back from budget analyst on this question - may be difficult to answer
	I think this needs to be a bit clear. We have no particular line item for technology and/or upgrades. It comes from a variety of sources. Do you want specifically geospatial stuff? ALL technology? That could range anywhere from 1K to a half million. Further, depending on the agency type (state, local, feds) you may have it paid for by the PD alone, or lumped into a city budget.
Question 38	Able to answer
Question 39	Able to answer