



## Division of Criminal Justice Services

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February 20, 2024

### AGENCY TRANSPARENCY PLAN UPDATE: 2024

**AGENCY NAME:** Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

#### **DELIVERABLES ACHIEVED SINCE 2021**

**(1) Supplemental Pretrial Release Data:** DCJS and the state Office of Court Administration (OCA) are required to compile and make publicly available Pretrial Release Data, which shows how courts are functioning since bail reform took effect on Jan. 1, 2020. State law requires these data to be updated twice a year: in January and July.

To further inform the public about the effect of bail reform on the criminal justice system, DCJS and OCA have compiled and made available to the public two Supplemental Pretrial Release Data Files:

- DCJS posted the first data file online in September 2022. It contained pretrial release data from 2019 (the year before bail reform took effect), 2020 and 2021. DCJS also compiled 14 tables to provide a high-level overview of the data. In addition to posting this information online, DCJS and the Data Collaborative for Justice at John Jay College hosted a webinar in September 2022 to outline the data and trends for criminal justice system practitioners, researchers, academics and the media.
- DCJS posted an updated supplemental pretrial release data file and 14 summary tables in September 2023. These data show pretrial release decisions annually for 2019 through 2022.

**(2) Data Dashboards:** DCJS posts a wealth of criminal justice data on the Statistics page of its website. In early 2023, the agency posted Tableau dashboards that allow users to filter data and use interactive visualizations to compare index crime and other system trends over time. The following information is currently available, with additional dashboards in development:

- [Index crime by county and region, annually from 2000 through 2022](#)
- [Index crime by reporting agency, annually from 2010 through 2022, and current year \(2023\) partial data](#)
- [Violent crime and violent crime by firearm by county and agency, annually from 2015 through 2022](#)
- [Racial and ethnic disparities in the youth justice system, annually from 2019 through 2022](#)

**(3) Compliance with Required Data and Information:** In addition to making supplemental data and data dashboards available online, DCJS has met its statutory and/or administrative obligation to provide the following information online: data detailing police use of force and arrest-related deaths;

implementation of the state's new discovery law; biographies and photographs of the agency's executive leadership; and information about nine different criminal justice policy boards to which DCJS staff provide support.

**(4) [Criminal Justice Knowledge Bank and Research Consortium](#):** The DCJS Criminal Justice Knowledge Bank fosters and expands the use of data, evidence and best practices by law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals. Through Program Profiles, the Knowledge Bank shares information about evidence-based and evidence-informed practices to address local crime problems. Since 2021, DCJS has published 10 new profiles highlighting local activities related to community hiring panels for police, procedural justice committees, domestic violence teams, threat advisory committees, and others. There are currently a total of 21 profiles posted, with four additional profiles in progress.

The Criminal Justice Research Consortium facilitates partnerships between local justice practitioners and academic researchers to examine and make recommendations on local practices. Following the completion of research projects, DCJS publishes Research Briefs, which summarize the project and, where possible, provide practical, actionable recommendations for program implementation and improvement. Since 2021, DCJS has published two new research briefs, bringing the total posted to 10, and has four additional projects or briefs in progress. Research projects since 2021 have examined trust building through police and community dialogues, micro-hot spot policing in Buffalo, NYS SNUG, and community hiring panels in Schenectady Police Department. Additional research projects are in development.

## **INITIATIVES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2024**

**(1) [DCJS Website Migration and Modernization](#):** The existing DCJS website is a vestige of the early days of the internet. The website "lives" on physical servers and uses an outdated platform, both of which compromise security; includes text-heavy pages and outdated content that can only be updated by filing a ticket with ITS; and features a secondary navigation that is not optimized for mobile devices; to name just a few issues. DCJS will partner with ITS to transition the site to the Drupal content management system and cloud-based storage by the end of 2024/early 2025. This process, which includes an audit of existing information, development of new information, creation of the structure and flow of the website, and its design, typically takes anywhere from nine months to one year. Well-designed websites with accessible, user-friendly, attractive and current content are critical to any comprehensive communications, social media, and transparency plan.

**(2) [Engagement with External Stakeholders](#):** DCJS is developing a robust external communications and outreach plan to further engage in person and virtually with primary (i.e., law enforcement, community-based organizations, criminal justice practitioners and other policy makers) and secondary (i.e., community groups, neighborhood organizations, chambers of commerce) stakeholders. This outreach will build upon the Commissioner's tour of communities that receive Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE), SNUG Street Outreach program, and Crime Analysis Center funding from DCJS, and leverage social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, X/Twitter, LinkedIn), podcasts and op-eds to better inform the public of the administration's public safety priorities and the agency's work to further advance police professionalism and law enforcement recruitment; support programs that provide opportunities for youth and families and help make communities whole; and foster a more fair and equitable justice system for all.