



FAIR AND JUST PROSECUTION

Promoting justice through leadership and innovation

OVERVIEW

Advancing the Use of Data in Prosecution

What We Measure Matters

This FJP white paper offers an overview of the role of data in reform-minded prosecutors' offices. The paper discusses the **value of strengthening data capacity**, as well as **common challenges and recommendations** for offices as they commit to this vitally important undertaking. The key findings and recommendations emerging from existing research and interviews with prosecutorial data staff are included below. [Read the full white paper here.](#)

EXTERNAL USE OF DATA: INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **Promoting transparency and accountability** through open data portals, dashboards, and data stories.
- **Enhancing the public's understanding of the prosecutor's role** in relation to law enforcement, courts, and other agencies.
- **Responding to critics and the media** through proactive outreach and correcting misguided narratives.

INTERNAL USE OF DATA: MANAGEMENT AND DECISION- MAKING

- **Informing policy changes** by identifying areas that may have the greatest return on investment.
- **Evaluating current programs** in order to communicate the progress made and to identify ways to improve programming.
- **Addressing racial disparities** with a clear view of unequal legal system impacts.
- **Improving performance management** to ensure fidelity to office policy and better allocate resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Build internal support** by incorporating data into staff meetings and communications and by using data to make work more efficient.
- **Improve data collection and quality assurance** by developing data entry standards, holding training for data entry staff, and performing regular data audits.
- **Make the case for funding data work** by emphasizing operational efficiency and the need for transparency.
- **Find the right people and build a capable data team** that includes both criminal legal system expertise and technical expertise, and look to external partners to fill in gaps.
- **Include qualitative research and data** by using qualitative methods like stakeholder interviews, focus groups, surveys, document review, and case audits.
- **Seek and secure external support** from university partnerships, local legal stakeholders, research organizations, and data consultants to accelerate data efforts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact FJP at info@fairandjustprosecution.org

