



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



WAYNE STATE
Law School

How Data, Evidence-Based Policy and Legislative Oversight Can Drive Improvements to State Criminal Justice Systems

MLC Policy Committee Meetings Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CSG Midwest Legislative Conference

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

July 21, 2024



Overview and introductions



Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy



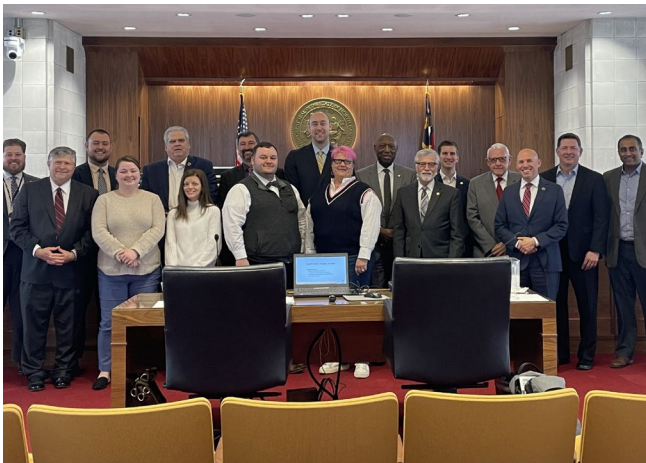
U.S. Sen. Carl Levin



Pennsylvania Oversight Committee



Wayne State Law School



North Carolina General
Assembly
Oversight Workshop

- Workshops for Congress, state, international legislatures
- Videos, testimony, webinars, social media
- Research & Reports (50-state analysis, symposium, more)
- Conferences, panels & events
- State Oversight Academy
- Benjamin.Eikey@wayne.edu



DC Council Oversight Workshop

State Oversight Academy Resources

- Videos
 - Oversight Overviews
 - Headlines
 - Masterclasses
- Blog, Testimony
- SOA Oversight Leaders
- Researchers and Practitioners in Partnership
- Oversight Consulting
- Newsletter



State Oversight Academy

State Legislature Oversight Wiki

go.levin-center.org/wiki

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Levin Center Home website. It includes a search bar, social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, and a main menu with the following items: About, What is Oversight? - Government Oversight, Events & Commentary, Levin Center at Work, State Oversight Academy, and Awards. Below the navigation bar is a banner for the "STATE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT WIKI 2.0" with a "SUPPORT NOW" button and a search bar.

The screenshot shows a grid of featured reports and resources. The grid is organized into three columns. The first column is titled "Featured Reports and Resources" and contains a list of reports. The second and third columns are organized by state, with each state having a circular icon and a text label. The states listed are Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, and Florida.

Featured Reports and Resources	Alabama	Alaska
American Samoa	Arizona	Arkansas
California	Colorado	Connecticut
Delaware	District of Columbia	Florida

The screenshot shows the Michigan page on the State Legislative Oversight Wiki. The page features a map of Michigan on the left and the title "Michigan" on the right. Below the title is a breadcrumb trail: Home > State Legislative Oversight Wiki 2.0 > Michigan. A "SUPPORT NOW" button is visible in the top right corner.

The screenshot shows the content of the Michigan page. It is organized into four sections, each with a title and a brief description, and a right-pointing arrow indicating further content is available.

- Legislature**: Type of Legislature Michigan has a full-time, bicameral legislature. House of Representatives: 110 members | 2-year terms 12 years in...
- Committee Oversight Authority**: "Legislative committees; powers, punishment for contempt." "Sec. 1." "Committees and commissions of or appointed by the legislature may by resolution..."
- Standing Committees Focused on Oversight**: House Ethics and Oversight Committee Website Membership, testimony, and meeting minutes available on website. Purpose/Jurisdiction "Upon receipt of Auditor General..."
- Non-Standing Committees Focused on Oversight**: Joint Committee on Administrative Rules House Website / Senate Website Membership / membership; rulemaking process; documents; reports; regulatory plans; proposed...



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.

How We Work

- We bring people together.
- We drive the criminal justice field forward with original research.
- We build momentum for policy change.
- We provide expert assistance.

Our Goals

- Break the cycle of incarceration.
- Advance health, opportunity, and equity.
- Use data to improve safety and justice.



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Senator William "Bill" DeMora

(D-Columbus)
Ohio State Senate District 25

DeMora@ohiosenate.gov

Today's session

1

Overview and introductions

2

Importance of legislative oversight in criminal justice

3

Tools for using data to drive decision-making

4

Justice Counts in Franklin County, Ohio

5

Panel discussion

Importance of legislative oversight in criminal justice



What is Legislative Oversight?

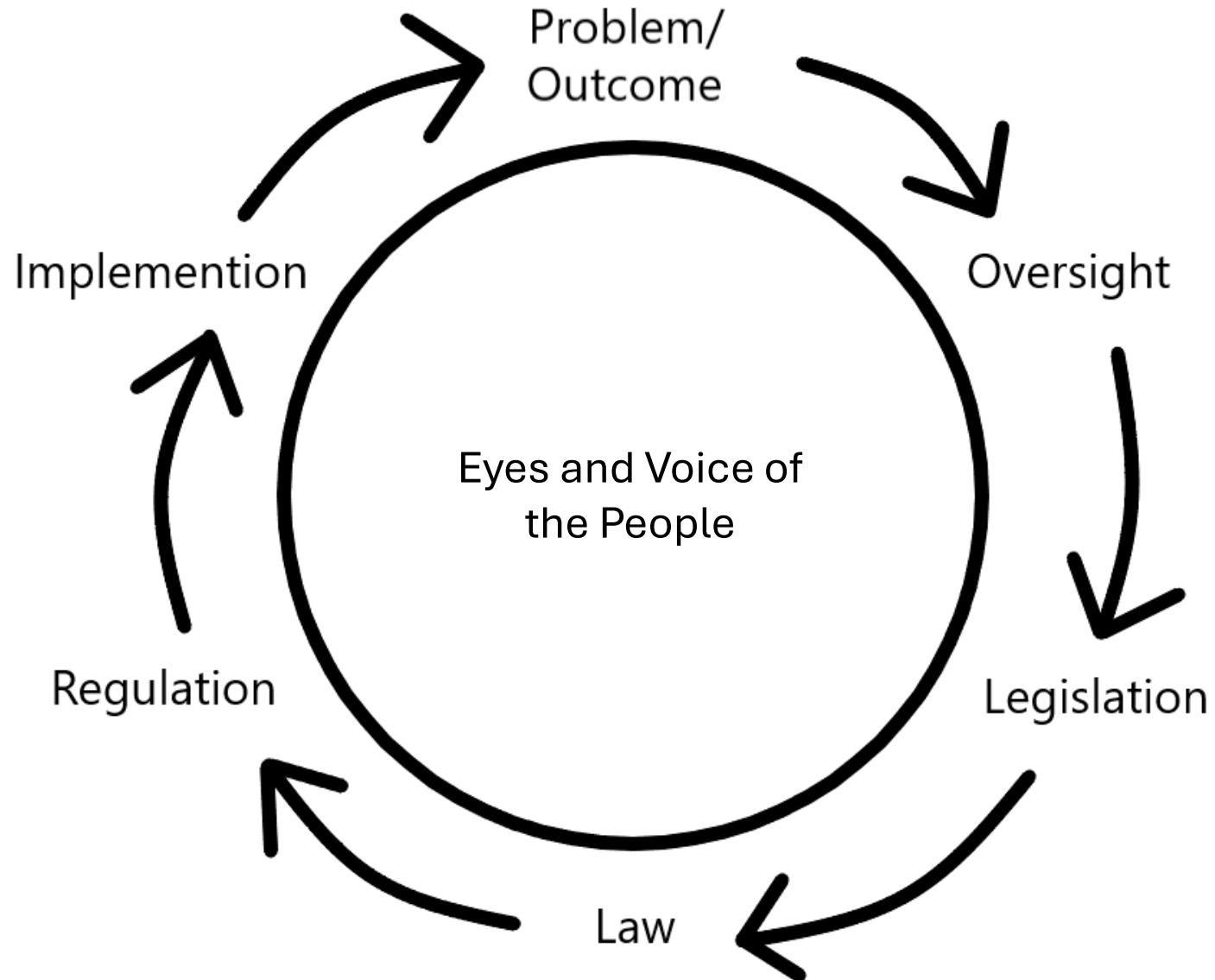
The “eyes and voice” of the people

“It is the proper duty of a representative body to look diligently into every affair of government and to talk much about what it sees. It is meant to be the eyes and the voice, and to embody the wisdom and will of its constituents.”

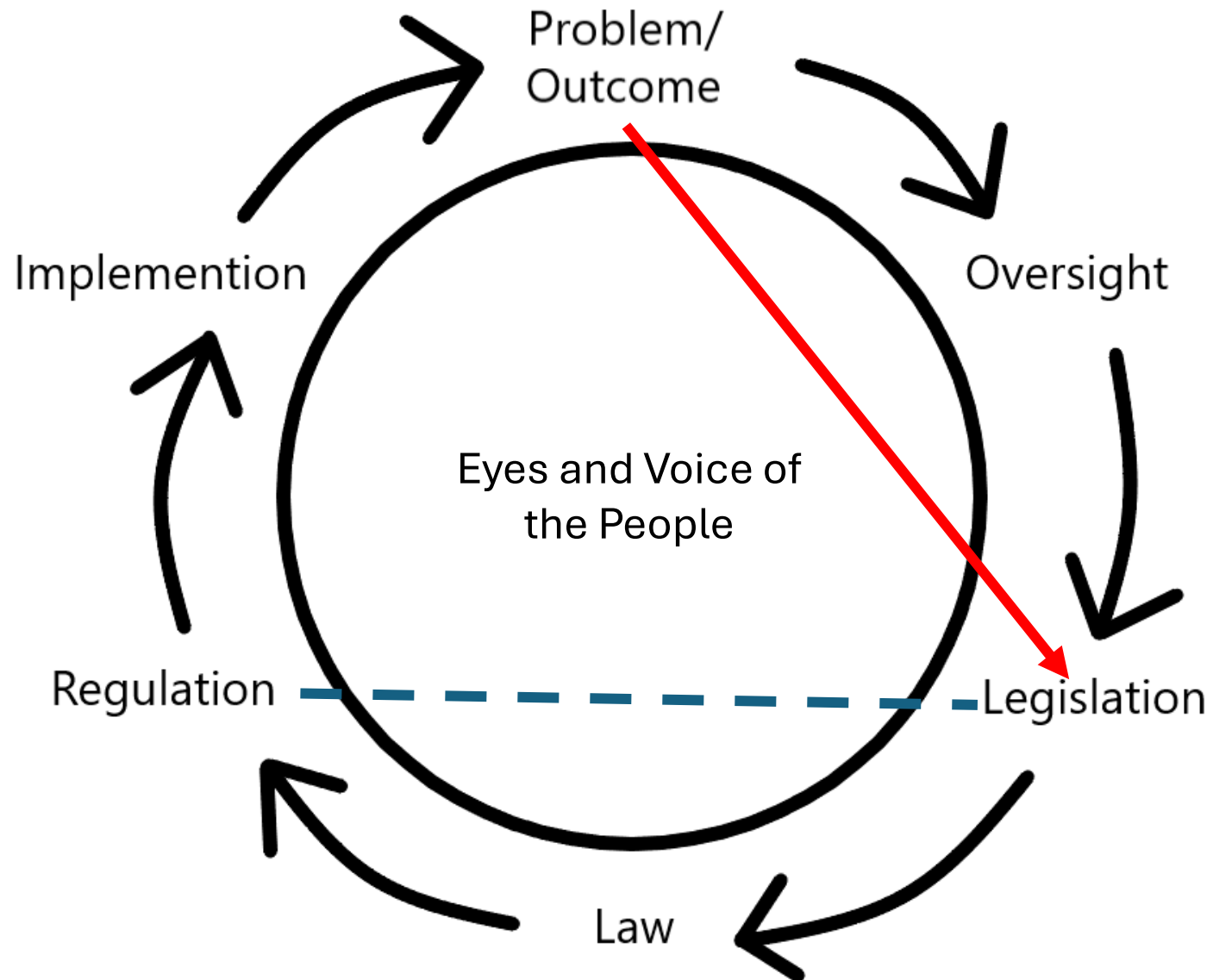
-- United States Supreme Court¹

¹ *United States v. Rumely*, 345 U. S. 41, 43 (1953).

Cycle of Accountability



Cycle of Accountability



Routine or Event-Driven Oversight?

Routine: "cop on the beat"	Event-Driven: "firefighter"
Program Outcomes	Scandal
Budgetary	Disaster
Contracts	Chronic Problems
Compliance	Escalating Problems
Deter Malfeasance	Long-term Investigation

Avenues for State Legislative Oversight

- Analytic Bureaucracies (UT, MN, OR)
- Appropriations Process (MI, PA)
- Committees (CT, CO)
- Administrative Rule Review (WI)
- Advice and Consent (MN, KS)
- Monitoring Contracts (ID)

Masterclass: [Introduction to State Legislative Oversight](#)



South Carolina

House Oversight Committee

- Full Committee plus five subcommittees
- Video archive and minutes of all meetings
- Public input form, plus info on testimony submission
- Restructuring recommendations for agencies
- Seven-year agency reviews
- Annual transparency report
- All reports published since 2014 available online

Recommendations for Strengthening Oversight

- Joint oversight committee with balanced party membership
E.g., Michigan SJR O, 2022
- University and non-profit partnerships
- More follow-up (e.g., hearings) on reports
- More contract oversight
- Create oversight plan for a committee, or even full legislature
- Post status and results of investigations on website

For additional resources: <https://www.levin-center.org/state-lawmakers/state-oversight-resources/>

Oversight Planning

Oversight planning can and should be undertaken at any of these levels:

- Entire legislature
- House/Senate
- Caucus
- Committee
- Investigation



For additional resources: <https://levin-center.org/state-oversight-academy/state-oversight-resources/>

Oversight Plan

Topic	Factual Question	Avenue(s)	Routine/Event Driven (Required Resources)
Employment for Re-entry	How do qualified applicants within the re-entering population find and apply for a job?	(context dependent)	(context dependent)

Avenues:

- Analytic Bureaucracies
- Appropriations Process
- Committees
- Admin Rule Review
- Advice and Consent
- Monitoring Contracts



Q&A



State Oversight Academy

Further Resources

- Videos
 - Oversight Overviews
 - Headlines
 - Masterclasses
- Blog, Testimony
- SOA Oversight Leaders
- Researchers and Practitioners in Partnership
- Oversight Consulting
- Newsletter





Thank you!

For more information, contact:

Ben Eikey, Benjamin.Eikey@wayne.edu

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State Oversight Workshops: <https://www.levin-center.org/state-lawmakers/oversight-workshops/>



Tools for using data to drive decision-making



The CSG Justice Center and The US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) are working to address challenges experienced by criminal justice agencies when they try to use data to tell the story of their work to decisionmakers.



Justice
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NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Justice Counts



The Virtual Academy
for Corrections Analysts



Resident Corrections
Analysts Initiative



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The Virtual Academy for Corrections Analysts (VACA) will define standards and build data literacy and analytic capabilities of DOCs nationwide to further data-informed planning and decision-making.

How does the Academy work?

DOCs will be able to access the program's self-paced learning materials and core competency standards, communities of practice, peer-to-peer networks, and technical assistance at no cost.

How can I get involved?

If you have questions or would like to provide feedback on the types of curriculum and materials that The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center should develop, please reach us at vaca@csg.org.

The Resident Corrections Analysts (RCA) Initiative

embeds analysts at state DOCs to help agencies build out their data infrastructure and more fully integrate the use of data analysis practices, tools, and reporting into their daily operations and management.



27 state agencies applied for placement in 2023



4 analysts are embedded



Placements will last up to one year





Justice Counts



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



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Justice Counts was founded to address longstanding challenges policymakers face when crafting criminal justice policy:

- Very little **timely** criminal justice data is made available to the public.
- Policymakers lack even **basic data** on criminal justice dynamics to inform their decisions.
- Those decisions have **lasting effects** in communities on everything from public safety to disparate impacts.



Justice Counts is a new kind of solution that aims to have **EVERY** criminal justice agency in the country share a common set of data, creating the first, complete picture of the criminal legal system in the United States.



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



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Justice Counts

There has never been an effort to solve this challenge

- ✓ This large
- ✓ This expansive
- ✓ This collaborative



Justice Center



20

Partner organizations

7

Sector-specific subcommittees

1

National steering committee



Justice
Center

80+

Tier 1 metrics

10+

Staff to provide hands-on help

1

Cutting-edge publishing tool



Justice Center




JUSTICE COUNTS — TIER 1 METRICS

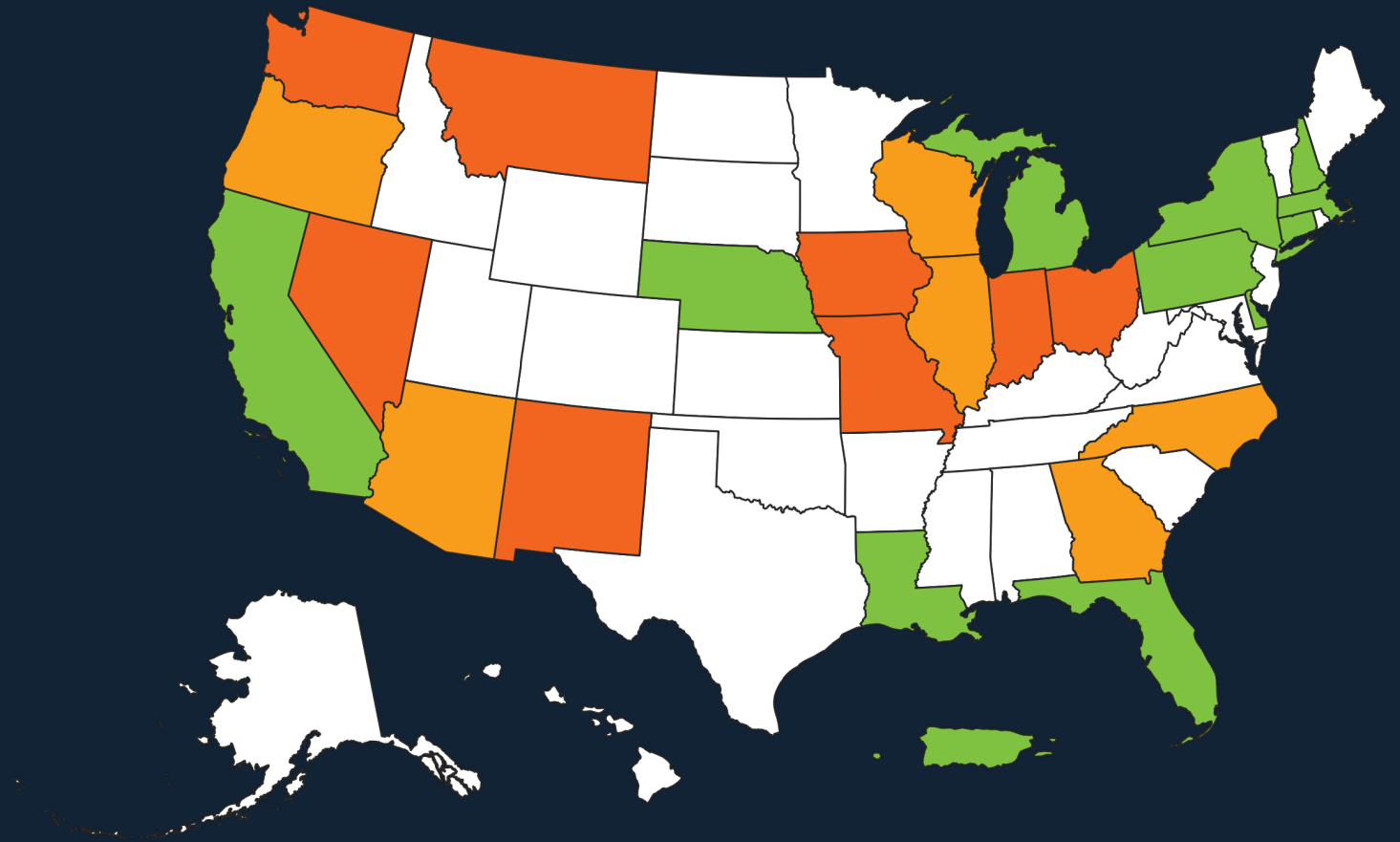


	Capacity & Costs	Population Movements	Operations & Dynamics	Public Safety	Equity	Fairness*
Law Enforcement	Funding Expenses Staff Staff by Race and Ethnicity	Calls for Service	Arrests	Reported Crime Use of Force Incidents	Arrests by Race and Ethnicity, Biological Sex	Civilian Complaints Sustained
Prosecution	Funding Expenses Staff Caseload	Cases Referred Cases Declined Cases Diverted/Deferred Cases Prosecuted	Cases Disposed	<i>No Tier 1 metric</i>	Cases Declined, Diverted/Deferred, Prosecuted by Race and Ethnicity, Biological Sex	Violations Filed Resulting in Discipline
Defense	Funding Expenses Staff Caseload	Cases Appointed Counsel	Cases Disposed	<i>No Tier 1 metric</i>	Cases Disposed by Race and Ethnicity, Biological Sex	Client Complaints Sustained
Courts & Pretrial	Funding Expenses Judges and Staff	Criminal Case Filings	Pretrial Releases Sentences Imposed Cases Disposed	New Offenses While on Pretrial Release	Sentences Imposed by Race and Ethnicity, Biological Sex	<i>No Tier 1 metric</i>
Jails	Funding Expenses Staff	Pre-, Post-Adjudication Admissions Pre-, Post-Adjudication Daily Population	<i>No Tier 1 metric</i>	Use of Force Incidents Readmissions	Pre-, Post-adjudication Daily Population by Race and Ethnicity, Biological Sex	Grievances Upheld
Prisons	Funding Expenses Staff	Admissions Daily Population Releases	<i>No Tier 1 metric</i>	Use of Force Incidents Readmissions	Daily Population by Race and Ethnicity, Biological Sex	Grievances Upheld
Supervision	Funding Expenses Staff Caseload	New Cases Daily Population Discharges	Violations Revocations	Reconvictions	Daily Population by Race and Ethnicity, Biological Sex	<i>No Tier 1 metric</i>

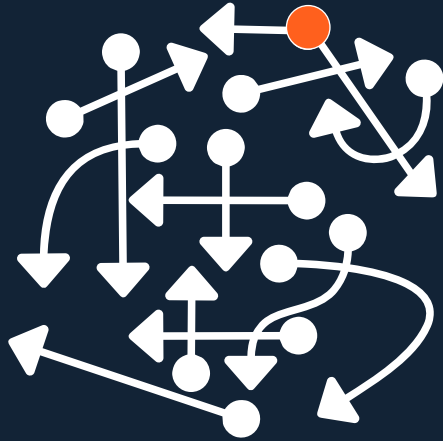
**Many factors can lead to a complaint, grievance, or appeal that are not related to fairness. The existence of these processes reflects a functioning system.*

Criminal justice agencies across 25 states and one territory are part of Justice Counts.

-  Some sites requested intensive technical assistance to implement Justice Counts.
-  Some sites received grants from BJA and technical assistance from the Justice Counts coalition to assist in their implementation efforts.
-  Some individual agencies choose to participate outside of a larger Justice Counts campaign.

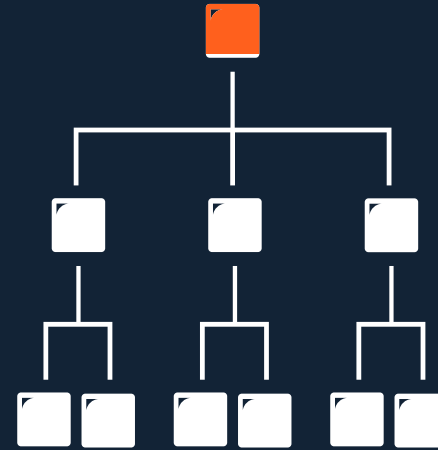


Sites are taking different approaches in their paths to implementation.



Local effort leads the way.

The CSG Justice Center begins working with a local coalition or commission and shares local successes with other areas of the state, spurring growth in interest that pave the way for statewide implementation.

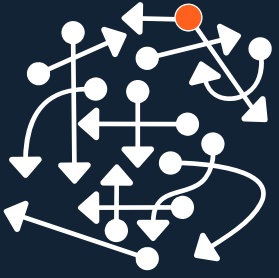


Statewide entity leads the way.

The CSG Justice Center begins working with a statewide coalition or commission (e.g., State Administering Agency) and leverages existing data sharing and governance relationships to bring implementation to the local level. Even when data is collected by these umbrella agencies, local support is needed for data on metrics like funding, expenses, and staff.

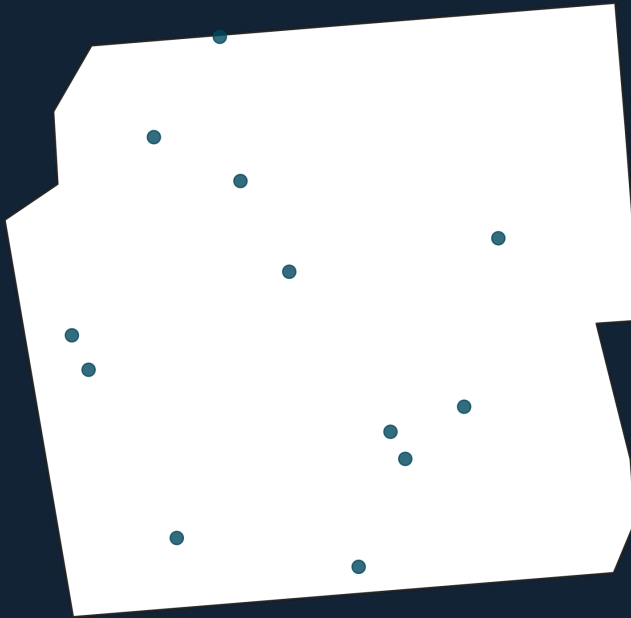
Justice Counts in action in Franklin County, Ohio





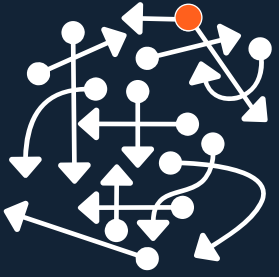
Ohio is an example of a grassroots implementation approach that started in Franklin County and then expanded statewide.

Franklin County, OH

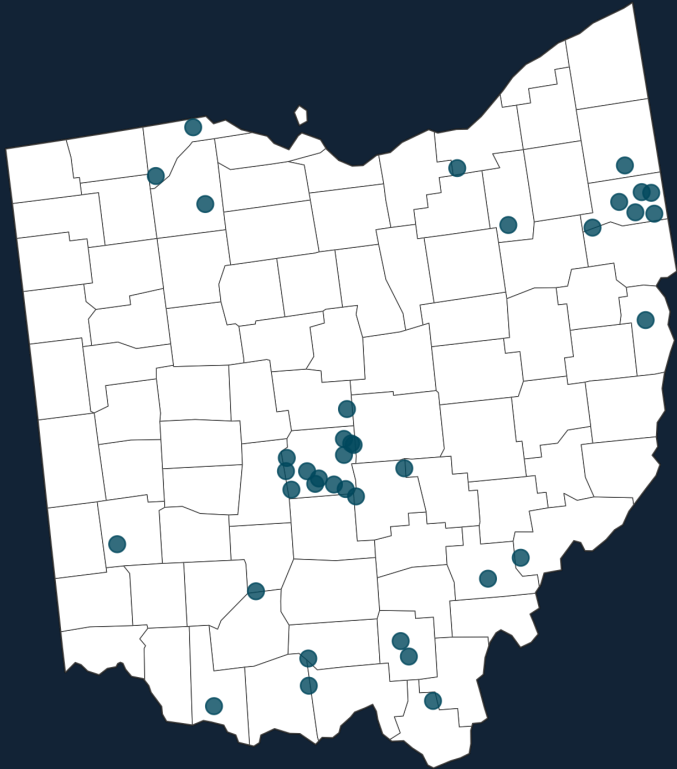


The **Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board** signed on to Justice Counts to connect data across their local criminal justice system.

Efforts to date have secured participation from 10 local agencies, representing **71 percent of all agencies in the county.**



Word spread about success in Franklin County, and momentum grew for a statewide effort.



Many agencies outside of Franklin County are also participating in Justice Counts.

Further efforts are underway with the Office of Criminal Justice Services to secure data from more than 500 additional criminal justice agencies.



BETTER DATA.

BETTER DECISIONS.

Justice Counts helps agencies transform data they already have into dynamic visualizations in just a few hours.

Panel discussion



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Senator William "Bill" DeMora

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MEET THE TEAM

Schedule time with the Justice Counts team to learn about data sharing in your district and state!



Thank you!

For more information, contact:

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Justice Counts



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<https://justice-counts.org>

This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-ZB-BX-K005 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.