

**FINDING AND REQUESTING DATA**

| Type of Data           | Source                 | How to Request It  |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Arrests & Dispositions | CHRI/ISP               | <p>Explanation of the CHRI system can be found on ISP’s website:<br/> <a href="https://www.isp.state.il.us/docs/5-336e.pdf">https://www.isp.state.il.us/docs/5-336e.pdf</a><br/>           Access to case-level data is governed by the CHRI User Agreement, which must be signed by any research entity seeking a CHRI dataset. ICJIA produces CHRI datasets for research purposes. Requests for research data should be made to Chris Devitt-Westley at ICJIA:<br/> <a href="mailto:Christine.Devitt@Illinois.gov">Christine.Devitt@Illinois.gov</a></p>   |
| Jails                  | County Sheriffs        | <p>Jail data is collected monthly from the Sheriffs by the Jail and Detention Standards Unit at IDOC, which posts the annual inspection reports on its website. ICJIA receives the data from IDOC annually and requests for data can be made to Chris Devitt-Westley at ICJIA:<br/> <a href="mailto:Christine.Devitt@Illinois.gov">Christine.Devitt@Illinois.gov</a></p>   |
| Court case records     | Circuit Court Clerks   | <p>Requests should be made in writing to the Chief Judge of the jurisdiction, with an explanation of why the data is being requested. Dissemination is at discretion of the Chief Judge.<br/>           The AOIC publishes statistical summaries of court processing of criminal and quasi-criminal cases by county, circuit, and statewide. County courts send the AOIC summary counts that are then collated into these quarterly and annual reports and may contain inconsistencies in definitions, methodology, and counts across jurisdictions and years. The reports can be found on the AOIC website: <a href="http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/SupremeCourt/AnnReport.asp">http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/SupremeCourt/AnnReport.asp</a></p> |
| Charging decisions     | State’s Attorneys/CHRI | <p>Under current law, state’s attorneys are required to report the charging decisions into CHRI as the case progresses, including decisions not to file charges. Currently, charging decisions come into CHRI through three methods: (1) state’s attorneys report them; (2) there is an agreement between state’s attorneys and ISP that the arrest charges will be the proxy for the charges filed in court by the state’s attorney, known as “Direct File;” or (3) the information is provided through the ADR data dump into CHRI. CHRI data on the arrest charge, the charge of conviction, and the disposition is fairly reliable but does not wholly reflect the charging history in a case.</p>   |
| Diversion Programs     | Various                | <p>If a prosecutor’s office administers the program, it will be up to the individual office how much or what kind of data is collected. Prosecutors are not currently required to collect or report any data on the diversion programs they administer.<br/>           If a diversion program is run through the courts, such as a drug or mental health court, data will be collected by the jurisdiction to manage its caseload and some of that data will be</p>  |

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|                                      |                         | reported to the AOIC’s problem-solving courts division. Judicial data is not subject to FOIA, so requests should be made to the Chief Judge of the jurisdiction.  |
| Automated Disposition Reporting data | ADR/AOIC                | This is a data transmission mechanism supported by AOIC for Circuit Court Clerks to transmit court dispositions to ISP’s CHRI system. The data is not publicly available as an independent dataset from CHRI.   |
| Probation Case Data                  | Local probation offices | Requests should be made in writing to the Chief Judge of the jurisdiction, with an explanation of why the data is being requested if you want case-level probation data. These records are not subject to FOIA, nor are they public record. The AOIC plans on releasing statewide probation data on their website: <a href="http://www.probation.illinoiscourts.gov">www.probation.illinoiscourts.gov</a> . The AOIC collects aggregate data from probation offices annually, so contacting the probation division at the AOIC is also an option. Jennifer Haegele-Ryterski is the division’s research director and can answer questions about probation data: <a href="mailto:JRyterski@IllinoisCourts.gov">JRyterski@IllinoisCourts.gov</a> |
| Prison                               | IDOC                    | First, go to the IDOC website and look at what they have posted under the “Reports” tab. There are case-level population datasets and useful factsheets published by IDOC. Questions can be directed to Dr. Sharon Shipinski: <a href="mailto:Sharon.Shipinski@Illinois.gov">Sharon.Shipinski@Illinois.gov</a> , the Director of the Planning & Research Unit.  |
| Parole                               | PRB                     | The Prisoner Review Board sets conditions, the parole officers at IDOC enforce them and keep the individual records of technical violations, modifications of conditions, and discharges, however that information is not consistently put into the Offender 360 system. The PRB now has a database that will allow them to track some aspects of an individual’s progress on parole. The system is not yet fully online. Once it is, requests for data can be made to Tracy Buckley-Jones: <a href="mailto:Tracy.Buckley-Jones@Illinois.gov">Tracy.Buckley-Jones@Illinois.gov</a>  |

**ACRONYMS**

- ADR** – Automated Disposition Reporting
- AOIC** - Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
- CHRI** – Criminal History Record Information
- ICJIA** - Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
- IDOC** - Illinois Department of Corrections
- NIBRS** – National Incident-Based Reporting System
- PRB** - Prisoner Review Board

## OVERALL TIPS

**Ask, discuss, consider** – the agencies SPAC works with value and respect the privacy concerns of those involved in the criminal justice system. A thoughtful dialogue can sometimes be the best start to gathering the information you seek, especially if your purpose is non-adversarial. The agencies appreciate requests that consider the context of the data and demonstrate an effort to avoid misinterpretation. In some instances, inconsistencies look troublesome but are actually data gaps or errors. In other instances, the phrasing of the request or question may unintentionally create unusual results. For example, requesting felony arrests that result in conviction is different from requesting the arrests of felony convictions because cases may have begun as misdemeanors and ended as felonies, or vice versa. Be considerate of these nuances and be careful of drawing firm conclusions before fully understanding the data!

**Case-level data** – anything that could result in a count of cases that relates to 10 or fewer people – will likely require an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval before a state or county government will release the data. Some data are different and agency/jurisdiction interpretations may vary.

**Look first** – many agencies are trying to share as much data as possible online. Many agencies also produce reports, factsheets, and analyses that relate to the commonly asked questions. Below, SPAC has listed some of the publicly available datasets we know about and use.

**ONLINE DATA** - Be sure to check out the “self-serve” datasets on these websites:

**ICJIA:** There a number of reports that link to datasets, apps, and actual data sets on ICJIA’s Research Hub link:

<https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/search>

**IDOC:** IDOC posts quarterly data for its current prison and parole populations on its website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Pages/Prison-Population-Data-Sets.aspx>

**Cook County State’s Attorney:** Case-level data is available from Cook County provides information on the SAO’s intake of felony arrests, felony filings, felony dispositions, and sentencing: <https://www.cookcountystatesattorney.org/about/case-level-data>

**Chicago Police Department Data Portal:** The City of Chicago’s data portal has all crimes reported to police from 2001 to those from the previous week: <https://data.cityofchicago.org/Public-Safety/Crimes-2001-to-present/ijzp-q8t2>

**NIBRS - Rockford:** The FBI encourages law enforcement agencies to collect and report incident-based data, consistently organized across the country. Rockford Police Department is currently the only Illinois agency submitting these detailed data elements, which are available for download from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data:

- **Explanation:** <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/NIBRS/>
- **Download data:** <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/series/128>

**AOIC:** The Probation Division for the AOIC has a website collecting research, analysis, and data on probation services:  
<https://www.probation.illinoiscourts.gov/>