Utilizing State Criminal History Records for Justice Research Series

Part I: A Review of Arizona’s Use of the ACCH Records

January 28, 2015
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State Criminal History Records for Criminal Justice Research: A Review of Arizona’s Use of the ACCH Records

Prepared for:
Justice Research & Statistics Association
January 28, 2015
Criminal History Records Defined

- Arrest Information
- Subsequent Case Disposition Information
  - Not Referred for Prosecution/ Not Filed in the Court
  - Court Dismissal
  - Acquittals
  - Convictions
- Used for a Variety of Purposes –
  - Criminal Background Checks
  - Firearms Licensing/Purchasing
Use of Criminal History Records in Arizona

- Establish an Offender’s Identity
  - Law Enforcement
  - Courts

- Risk of Failure to Appear
  - Prosecutors use FTA information

- Case Decisions
  - Child Safety/Custodians
  - Charging/Sentencing Decisions
According to A.R.S. §41-1750, the following is to be collected for each charge:

- Fingerprints at Arrest
- Arrest/Disposition Charges
- Process Control Numbers
- Disposition information, includes Sentencing

Fingerprinting is required for record entry into the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) repository
A.R.S. §41-1750 identifies the specific offenses to be collected:
- Felony Offenses
- DUI Offenses
- Offenses Involving Domestic Violence
- Sexual Offenses

Includes any offender/defendant charged, arrested, convicted, or summoned for A.R.S. §41-1750 offenses.
The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) is statutorily mandated to maintain the ACCH

- ACCH Repository
- State Uniform Crime Reporting
- Arizona Criminal Justice Information System

The ACCH is an electronic criminal history record repository pulling electronic and paper-based criminal history information from all agencies across the state.
Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH)

- Records initiate at arrest booking
  - Law Enforcement Agencies
  - Sworn Officer Fingerprinting at the Court

- Prosecuting Agencies Make Their Determinations
  - File with the Court / No File on a Charge
  - Amend Arrest Charges

- Courts Dispose of Filed Charges
  - Court Finding on a Charge
  - Subsequent Sentencing on a Charge
Reporting extends beyond A.R.S. §41-1750 fingerprintable offenses

Disposition information resulting from appeals overwrites the information from the originating court case findings

Efforts are being made to transition the primarily paper-based disposition process to an electronic process, known as ADRS
A.R.S. §41-2406 statutorily mandates the sharing of disposition reports for sexual assault charges from DPS to ACJC

BJS State Justice Statistics Program
- Records Quality Index, created by Structured Decisions Corp., for Arizona counties (2005)
- 2007 Recidivism Study
Beginning in 2009, ACJC signed formal non-disclosure agreements with DPS to obtain 13-year extracts of ACCH data on an annual basis.

Data collection was aligned with annual reporting projects (i.e. sexual assault reporting, records quality, etc.).

Provided records quality data to the DPS Access Integrity Unit.
ACCH Data Extract

- SAC staff receives a fixed width text file for each of the 13 years of records.

- Each row contains a single arrest charge with subsequent disposition findings for that charge.
  - Example: Offender arrested on three charges results in three separate rows for each charge.

- Staff uses syntax to import the files into SPSS.
ACCH Data Extract (Cont.)

- July 2014 extract contained approx. 6,400,000 records

**Arrest Information**
- State Identifier (Masked)
- Arrest Identifier
- Date of Birth
- Sex / Race
- Date of Arrest / Offense
- Arrest Count
- Arresting Agency
- Entry Date (ACCH)
- Offense Code (Statute / Ordinance)
- Charge Type (Misdemeanor / Felony)

**Disposition Information**
- Disposition Date / Entry Date
- Offense Code (Statute / Ordinance)
- Charge Type (Misdemeanor / Felony)
- Disposition Finding Code
- Confinement (Prison or Jail)
- Probation, Restitution, Fine (Yes / No)
- Community Service (Yes / No)
- Suspended Sentence (Yes / No)
- Disposition Submission Type
- Domestic Violence-Related (Yes / No)
- Disposition Agency
Rich source of data spanning the criminal justice spectrum collected across the entire state

Data is maintained electronically

DPS adheres to strict standards for data entry into the ACCH repository
Limitations When Using ACCH Records

- Misdemeanor offenders receiving a citation in lieu of arrest run the risk of bypassing fingerprinting.

- Disposition completion and submission to DPS continues to be an issue (72.1% complete in 2012)
  - Primarily a paper-based disposition reporting process
  - Collaboration across agencies is essential

- “Bookend” approach to data collection
  - No filing information or changes to charges through the process
  - Appellate findings overwrite original findings in the extract
Question & Answer

Part 1:
- Criminal History Records in Arizona
- Submission of records information into the ACCH repository
- Collaboration with DPS on ACJC extract
- Limitations and the Benefits to using ACCH data

Coming Up... Arizona SAC Projects Using ACCH records
2007 Recidivism Study

- Funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics via the 2007 State Justice Statistics Program
- Arizona prisoners admitted after 1984 and released by 2002
- Collaborated with Arizona State University to complete recidivism reports (i.e. drug offenders)
### 2007 Recidivism Study

#### Table 2. Recidivism Rates by Offender Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Re-Incarceration</th>
<th>Months Until Re-Incarceration</th>
<th>Community Supervision Revocation</th>
<th>Convicted &amp; Sentenced for New Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug Offenders</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>29.34</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violent Drug Offenders</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>39.63</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Offenders</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>28.23</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Offenders</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Offenders</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>28.59</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 3. Regression Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Re-Incarceration</th>
<th>Months Until Re-Incarceration</th>
<th>Community Supervision Revocation</th>
<th>Convicted &amp; Sentenced for New Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exp(b)</td>
<td>Exp(b)</td>
<td>Exp(b)</td>
<td>Exp(b)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>1.26*</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>1.60*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td>0.96*</td>
<td>1.00*</td>
<td>0.97*</td>
<td>0.97*</td>
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<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity (White is reference)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1.60*</td>
<td>1.10*</td>
<td>1.47*</td>
<td>1.19*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0.92*</td>
<td>0.96*</td>
<td>0.84*</td>
<td>1.14*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>1.18*</td>
<td>0.94*</td>
<td>1.10*</td>
<td>1.14*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Offender (Drug is reference)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Violent Drug</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.08*</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.08*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>1.10*</td>
<td>1.09*</td>
<td>1.05*</td>
<td>1.06*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violent</td>
<td>0.92*</td>
<td>1.08*</td>
<td>0.90*</td>
<td>1.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>0.77*</td>
<td>0.91*</td>
<td>0.64*</td>
<td>1.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conviction</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Supervision Revocation</td>
<td>1.41*</td>
<td>1.08*</td>
<td>1.55*</td>
<td>.97*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of charges</td>
<td>1.04*</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.08*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time served</td>
<td>1.00*</td>
<td>1.00*</td>
<td>1.00*</td>
<td>1.00*</td>
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<td><strong>Arrest History</strong></td>
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<td>Prior arrests</td>
<td>1.02*</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.03*</td>
<td>0.98*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior charges</td>
<td>1.01*</td>
<td>1.01*</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of drug charges</td>
<td>0.94*</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.97*</td>
<td>0.97*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Most Recent Arrest</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of charges</td>
<td>1.00*</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.99*</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of drug charges</td>
<td>0.87*</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.89*</td>
<td>0.88*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Model Fit Statistics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chi-Square (df=20)</td>
<td>9387.58*</td>
<td>1103.33*</td>
<td>4721.84*</td>
<td>2523.49*</td>
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<td>-2 Log Likelihood</td>
<td>113728.77</td>
<td>808322.04</td>
<td>103731.63</td>
<td>79185.09</td>
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<td>Cox &amp; Snell R Square</td>
<td>.10</td>
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<td>.052</td>
<td>.028</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nagelkerke R Square</td>
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<td>na</td>
<td>.073</td>
<td>.047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table Note:** All analyses also control for prior arrest severity in both their entire arrest histories and their most recent arrest.
Completeness of ACCH Records in Arizona

- Standardized measure of completeness over a ten-year period
- A record is considered “complete” when a disposition finding is present
- All arrest charges are given at least 365 days for disposition finalization
Arrest Charges with Subsequent Case Disposition Information in the ACCH, 2003 - 2012
Percentage of Arrest Charges with Subsequent Case Disposition Information by Offense Type, 2003 - 2012

Percent of Arrest Charges Disposed

Felony Arrest Charges

Misdemeanor Arrest Charges
Percentage of Disposition Charges by Submission Type, 2003 - 2013

- Paper
- All Electronic
- ADRS-Electronic
The NICS Task Force identified four disqualifying categories for firearms purchases available in the ACCH:
- Felony Convictions
- Domestic Violence-Related Convictions
- Arrests/Convictions Related to Drug Use
- “Guilty, but Insane” Convictions

ACJC provides county representatives with county-level records completion percentages.
Felony Case Processing in Arizona

- Multi-state collaboration funded by BJS through JRSA
- Explored criminal history record information available for all felony charges
- 65,808 offenders arrested for at least one felony charge in 2006 in Arizona
A total of 67 arrested offenders are excluded from the criminal history data due to death and subsequent purging of ACCH records. These offenders are excluded from the Table 2 percentages and totals.

Convictions are calculated as one conviction per arrest.

### Table 2. Criminal History of Felony Offenders Arrested 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Felony Arrest Data</th>
<th>Total Offenders*</th>
<th>Percentage of Total*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Prior Felony Arrests</td>
<td>32,792</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Prior Felony Arrest</td>
<td>11,288</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Prior Felony Arrests</td>
<td>21,661</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Misdemeanor Arrest Data</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Prior Misdemeanor Arrests</td>
<td>29,697</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Prior Misdemeanor Arrest</td>
<td>11,043</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Prior Misdemeanor Arrests</td>
<td>25,001</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Felony Conviction Data**</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Prior Felony Convictions</td>
<td>46,959</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Prior Felony Conviction</td>
<td>10,696</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Prior Felony Convictions</td>
<td>8,086</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Misdemeanor Conviction Data**</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Prior Misdemeanor Convictions</td>
<td>35,560</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Prior Misdemeanor Conviction</td>
<td>12,522</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Prior Misdemeanor Convictions</td>
<td>17,659</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Incarceration Data</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior Prison Sentence</td>
<td>7,622</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Jail Sentence</td>
<td>25,592</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Offenders Arrested                     | 65,808           | 100%                 |
### Disposition Findings Resulting from Felony Arrestees, 2006

#### Table 4. Disposition Data for Felony Offenders 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Disposition from 2006 Arrest Charges</th>
<th>Total Offenders</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guilty, Plea or Trial</td>
<td>33,473</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilty, but Insane</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nolo Contendere Plea</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Sentencing</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilty, Plea to Other Charges</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquitted, Not Guilty</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Dismissed</td>
<td>5,687</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Prosecution</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Filed or Referred for Prosecution</td>
<td>9,332</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending or Missing Disposition</td>
<td>16,501</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Offenders Arrested</strong></td>
<td><strong>65,808</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Types of Conviction Charges within Cases

- Includes Felony Charge(s): 25,326 (75.6%)
- Misdemeanor Charge(s) Only: 8,156 (24.4%)

#### Most Serious 2006 Conviction Charge

- Violent Offense: 5,608 (16.7%)
- Property Offense: 7,739 (23.1%)
- Drug Offense: 7,646 (22.8%)
- Public-Disorder Offense: 12,489 (37.3%)

#### Total Offenders Convicted

- 33,482 (100%)
A.R.S. §41-2406 mandates the reporting of arrest and disposition information relating to sexual assault.

2010 State Justice Statistics Program funded by BJS
- Domestic Violence-Related Records
- Identity Theft-Related Records
Sexual Assault-Related Data Reported to DPS
CY 2003 - 2012

* One CY2004 conviction was overturned, and two convictions from CY2007 and CY2011 were reversed and remanded.
Percentage of Sexual Assault-Related Disposition Conviction Charges by Sentence Type(s), CY 2003 - 2012

The graph shows the percentage of sexual assault-related disposition conviction charges by sentence type from 2003 to 2012. The categories include Prison, Jail, Probation, and Suspended Sentence. The data indicates fluctuations in the percentages across the years, with some sentence types showing higher conviction rates in certain years compared to others.
Domestic Violence “Flagged” Arrest Rate versus the Aggravated Domestic Violence Arrest Rate in the ACCH, FY 2001 - 2010

- Aggravated Domestic Violence Rate (Per 100,000 Residents)
- Domestic Violence “Flagged” Rate (Per 100,000 Residents)
Identity Theft-Related Arrest Rate versus the A.R.S. Title 13, Ch. 18 Theft Arrest Rate in the ACCH, FY 2001 - 2010

Identity Theft Rate (Per 100,000 Residents)

ARS Title 13, Ch. 18 Theft Rate (Per 100,000 Residents)

Identity Theft-Related Arrest Events
ARS Title 13, Ch. 18 Theft Arrest Events
Published reports are currently available on the SAC Publications page at [www.azcjc.gov](http://www.azcjc.gov).

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