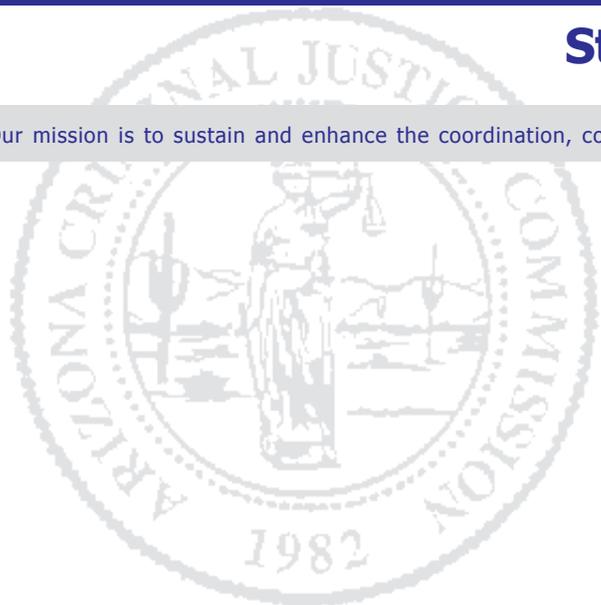


Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Publication

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in Arizona



Arizona Records Quality Index

1997-2005 Criminal History Records

Maricopa County

2006

May

Arizona Records Quality Index

1997-2005 Criminal History Records

Maricopa County

Performance Measures

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION



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JANICE SIMPSON
Research Analyst

JOY LITZENBERGER
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Stefanie Cargill, Arizona Department of Public Safety

David Einstein, Structured Decisions Corporation

John Halka, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Pat Nelson, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Systems Improvement Program Manager

Robin Neray, Structured Decisions Corporation

Cynthia Pellien, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Gerard Ramker, Bureau of Justice Statistics

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This report is available in alternate formats by contacting the Commission office at (602) 364-1146.

Introduction

Fundamental to an effective criminal justice system are the coordination and maintenance of accurate criminal history records. Quality information provided through an efficient record-keeping system is a necessary component not only for the success of crime control strategies, but for individual case processing, individuals seeking employment, security personnel, community safety, and firearms purchases. Records are reported and accessed by local, state, and federal justice systems. Though most crimes are prosecuted under state law, the individual systems are interrelated and all rely upon criminal justice records.

Currently, criminal history records are collected and maintained by each state in a central state repository database. In Arizona, pursuant to A.R.S. §41-2205, the coordination and maintenance of criminal history records in a central repository are fulfilled by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), which oversees database operations. The repository database, Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH), holds all state offender and criminal history records including fingerprint files, arrest information and disposition information.

Arizona has made great strides in recent decades in maintaining and improving records in the criminal justice system. Currently in this technological age, it is increasingly important to maintain reliable information as the state and its contributing agencies increase their levels of record automation. Record integrity and accessibility are crucial as the direction of the criminal justice system progresses toward a more integrated and automated system.

Over the past decade much attention has been directed toward the volume, importance and increased potential for use of criminal history records. Significant resources and energies have been put toward the maintenance and improvement of record systems. As progress is being made, the need to institute standardized measures for the performance and improvement of criminal history records and record systems becomes increasingly evident. The use of standardized measures to gauge effectiveness validates the importance of criminal history information, generates an avenue for increased accessibility and utility of record information, and provides baseline information for decision makers and funding sources.

Effective and ongoing evaluation is essential to the criminal justice process at local, state and national levels. The Records Quality Index (RQI) created by the Structured Decisions Corporation (SDC) is an evaluation instrument for criminal history records systems at the national level with an independent state component for comparison. As a logical next step, Arizona SAC is implementing the RQI model as applicable for evaluating criminal history records in Arizona, furthering the benchmark standards for demonstrating performance, identifying deficiencies, and advancing successes.

As a barometer of records quality, RQI serves to exhibit performance and target specific problem areas for future funding cycles. The structural development of RQI includes outcome measures of timeliness, completeness, and processing. This framework serves as a measure of overall performance, as well as a strategic tool for record system administrators and record managers to improve performance and efficiency of record processing.

Further benefit is given in the ability to demonstrate performance according to a recognized measure. As funding continues to diminish, emphasis is increasingly given to the ability to demonstrate effectiveness. Progressively, as the RQI tool becomes an accepted standard within individual states at the local level of analysis, it may become a common reference tool for major funding sources in granting and allocating resources.

The overall benefit that is delivered through the implementation of a standardized evaluation tool for criminal history record systems at multiple levels should not be understated. The potential for increased record utility in the hands of managers, administrators and decision makers starts with a foundational assessment and moves toward a more integrated process of the coordination of strategies at multiple levels.

Research Purpose

The purpose of this study is to implement standardized performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of criminal history record systems. This study makes benchmark use of the RQI tool designed by the Structured Decisions Corporation as a model for evaluating records quality in Arizona. The use of RQI at the national level has set a standard for determining the effectiveness of criminal history record systems. Its provision of independent state components allows for furthering its use beyond the national standard. The Statistical Analysis Center has chosen to model its evaluation of Arizona records contained in the ACCH according to the RQI design.

Adopting the evaluation method for this study of Arizona's records system serves to validate the benefit of establishing standardized performance measures and delivers an evaluation summary that can be used by grant administrators and policy makers, as well as record system managers and practitioners. The measures used in this study focus on records timeliness and completeness, as well as measure outcomes based on a weighted scale.

Using independent measures for completeness and timeliness equips the reader to recognize the areas of performance even if there is limited exposure to the system processes. Making use of standardized measures allows for comparison over time and for comparison across geographical regions and across jurisdictions.

Methodology

The Arizona Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), in conducting this evaluation of criminal history records maintained by the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH), followed specific methodological standards. SAC chose to tailor its evaluation method after the model used to evaluate records nationally. The Structured Decisions Corporation devised an assessment tool called the Records Quality Index (RQI) which assesses the status of records quality at both the state and national levels.

The evaluation was conducted on records within the ACCH repository at the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The Statistical Analysis Center received data from DPS in the form of a flat file containing records through calendar year 2004. The file was put into an SPSS database for analysis. In addition, SAC received a worksheet from DPS with data that followed the format used in the Records Quality Index (RQI). Since the focus of SAC's evaluation was accuracy, timeliness, and completeness, and different components of the RQI measuring tool speak to these efficiencies, the RQI implement or a modification of it, is a good fit for use at the state, county and agency levels. The tool as implemented is comprised of three measures: a weighted set of outcome measures for the state, a timeliness process measure, and a completeness process measure.

Separately, SAC staff created an Excel spreadsheet to implement the RQI outcome measure formula. Data provided by DPS was then put into the spreadsheet for calculation and to test the ability to replicate measures. During this process, SAC maintained communication with analysts from the Structured Decisions Corporation for quality assurance and fidelity to the RQI instrument. The instrument's mathematical structure incorporates the priorities of federal programs in its use of primary indicators for assessing the performance of criminal history record systems. SDC utilizes outcome and process measures in its RQI calculation.

Background of Criminal History Records

In Arizona, pursuant to A.R.S. §41-2205, the coordination and maintenance of criminal history records in a central repository is fulfilled by the DPS, which manages database operations. They are responsible for collecting, storing, and disseminating complete and accurate Arizona criminal history records. The repository database, Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH), holds all state offender and criminal history records including fingerprint files, arrest information, and disposition information.

The usefulness of criminal history records is of critical importance to every reach of the justice system as well as the community beyond the justice system. From employment and licensing decisions to the amount of bail an arrestee must post, decisions are made based upon criminal history data. The usefulness and availability of criminal history records affect criminal case processing and crime control strategies, and are also used

for non-criminal justice purposes. As such, the importance of a central repository to maintain and provide information about individuals' past criminal involvement in a timely, accurate and complete manner is essential.

Records contained in the repository consist of data collected on individuals by criminal justice agencies describing arrests, detentions, charges and their dispositions, sentencing, and release information. A criminal history record is originated following an arrest by law enforcement once a crime is believed to have been committed. During the booking process, arrestee information is obtained, and a photograph and full set of fingerprints are taken, which initiate a fingerprint card and a record. This is the point of origin of a criminal history record.

This criminal history record, once initiated, is the official form that records information on arrest, conviction, sentencing, and probation matters on an individual. It is also used to submit information to the DPS central state repository of criminal history information referred to as the ACCH. The criminal history record communicates arrest data, whether a charge was amended or dismissed, if defendant was found guilty in court, if the defendant received a jail or prison sentence, if probation was given as a sentence, and if probation was extended or revoked.

The statutory definition of criminal history record is recorded in A.R.S. §41-1750.Y.5 which states:

"Criminal history record information" and "criminal history record" means information that is collected by criminal justice agencies on individuals and that consists of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments and other formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising from those actions, sentencing, formal correctional supervisory action and release. Criminal history record information and criminal history record do not include identification information to the extent that the information does not indicate involvement of the individual in the criminal justice system or information relating to juveniles unless they have been adjudicated as adults."

"Criminal justice information" is differentiated from "criminal history record" defined in the same statute, A.R.S. §41-1750.Y.7, as:

"information that is needed for the performance of their legally authorized and required functions, such as criminal history record information, citation information, stolen property information, traffic accident reports and wanted persons information. Criminal justice information does not include the administrative records of a criminal justice agency."

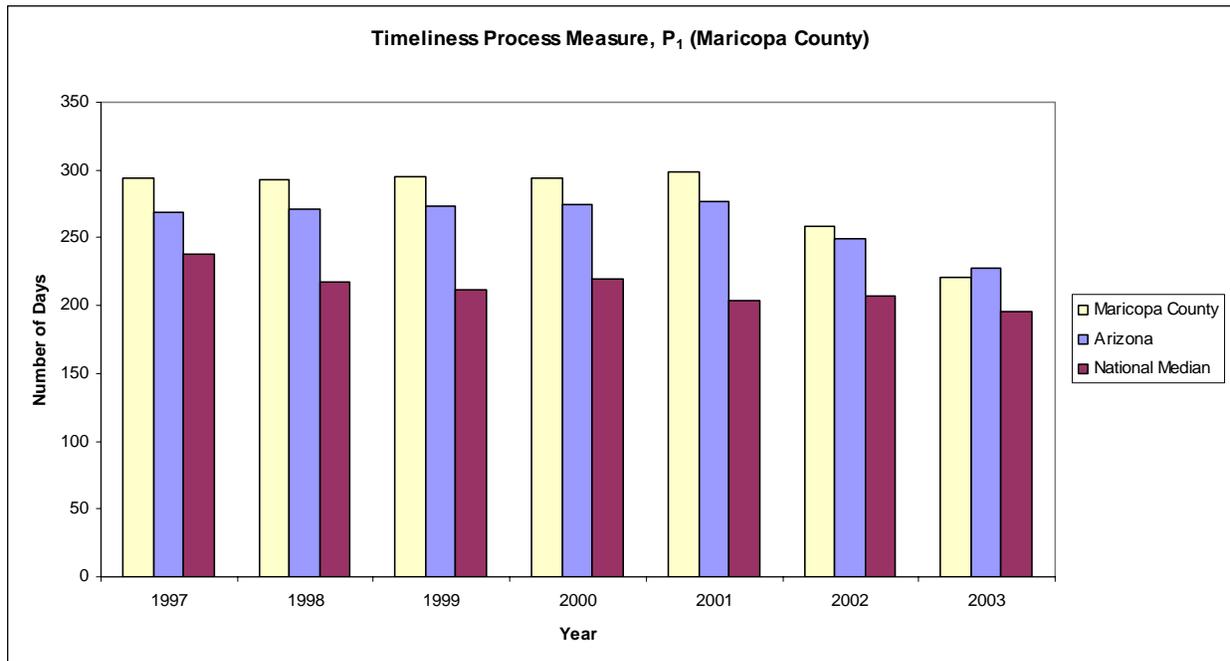
Timeliness Measure P₁(s)

Timeliness of Arizona Records in the Central State Repository:

The timeliness process measure designated by the descriptor P₁(s) reflects the average elapsed time in days from arrest date to the date the final disposition was entered into the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH). The average Arizona elapsed time is compared to the national average of elapsed time.

Maricopa County Records Quality Index Timeliness Process Measure P ₁ 1997-2003							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Maricopa County	294	293	295	294	299	259	221
Arizona	268	271	274	275	277	249	227
National Median	238	217	212	220	204	207	196

As can be seen in the chart below, Maricopa County decreased the number of days between 2002 and 2003 that elapsed between the arrest date and the date the final disposition was entered into ACCH. In 2003, Maricopa took less time than the State as a whole, but more time than the national median.



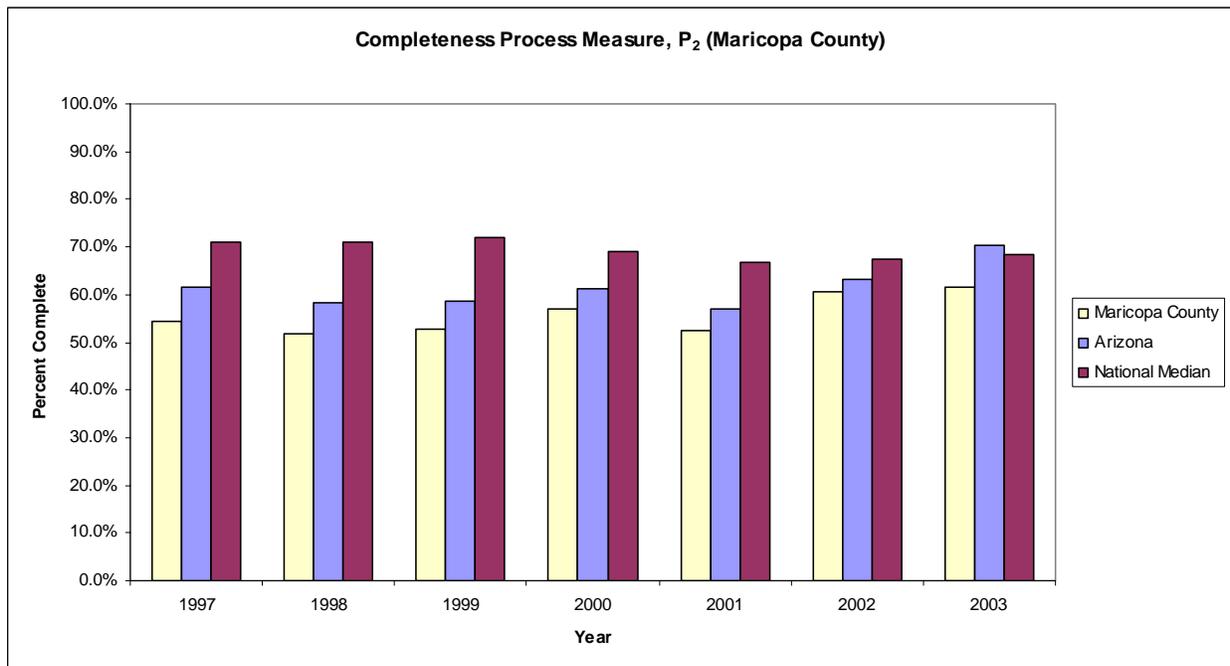
Completeness Measure P₂(s)

Completeness of Arizona Records in the Central State Repository:

The completeness process measure designated as P₂(s) reflects the “cohort” of records completeness, i.e. records of arrest made in the same time period. This is reflected in the form of a decimal proportion of those arrests that have final dispositions entered compared to the total number of arrest records for that time period.

Maricopa County Records Quality Index Completeness Process Measure P ₂ 1997-2003							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Maricopa County	54.3%	51.9%	52.9%	57.0%	52.3%	60.7%	61.5%
Arizona	61.5%	58.3%	58.5%	61.1%	57.0%	63.1%	70.2%
National Median	71.1%	70.9%	72.0%	69.1%	66.9%	67.5%	68.5%

In 2003, Maricopa County had a lower rate of records completeness than the State of Arizona or the nation.

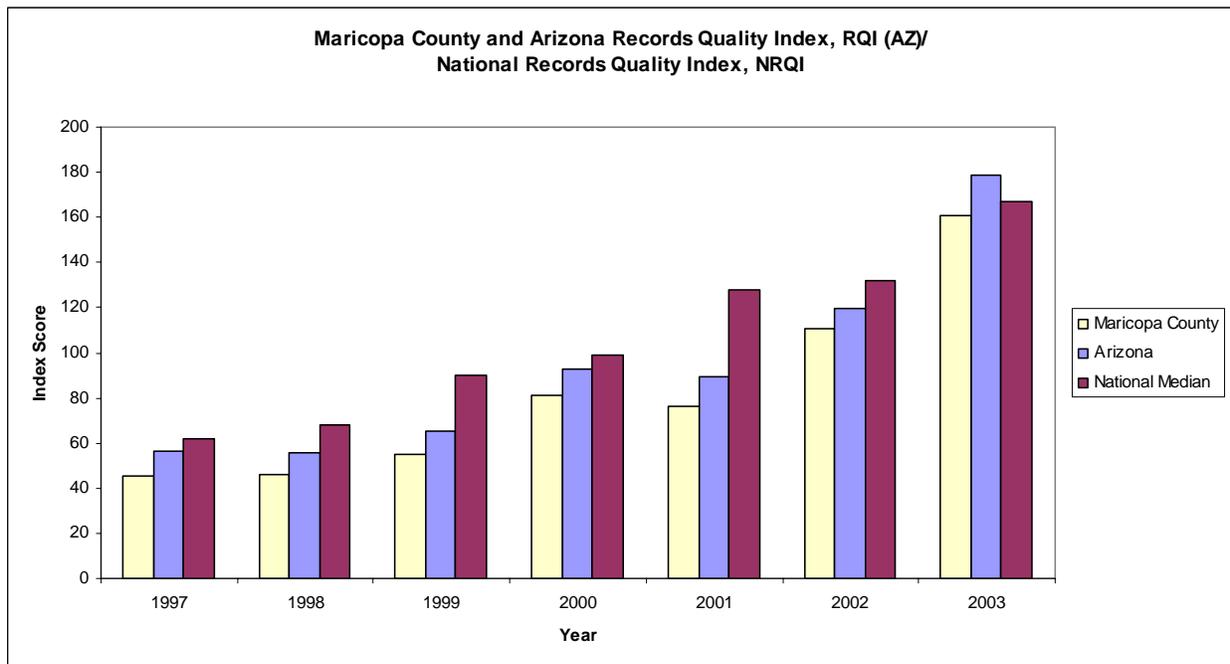


Records Quality Index (RQI) of Criminal History Records in Arizona

The Records Quality Index (RQI) is a numerical index score based on process measures of timeliness and completeness and weighted state outcome scores. Utilizing a single overall score provides a value to indicate progress over time, as well as to evaluate performance in comparison to the national median RQI scores.

Maricopa County Records Quality Index Index Score 1997-2003							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Maricopa County	45	46	55	81	76	111	161
Arizona	56	56	65	93	89	120	179
National Median	62	68	90	99	128	132	167

Maricopa County had a lower Records Quality Index score in 2003 than the state as a whole and a slightly lower score than the national median.

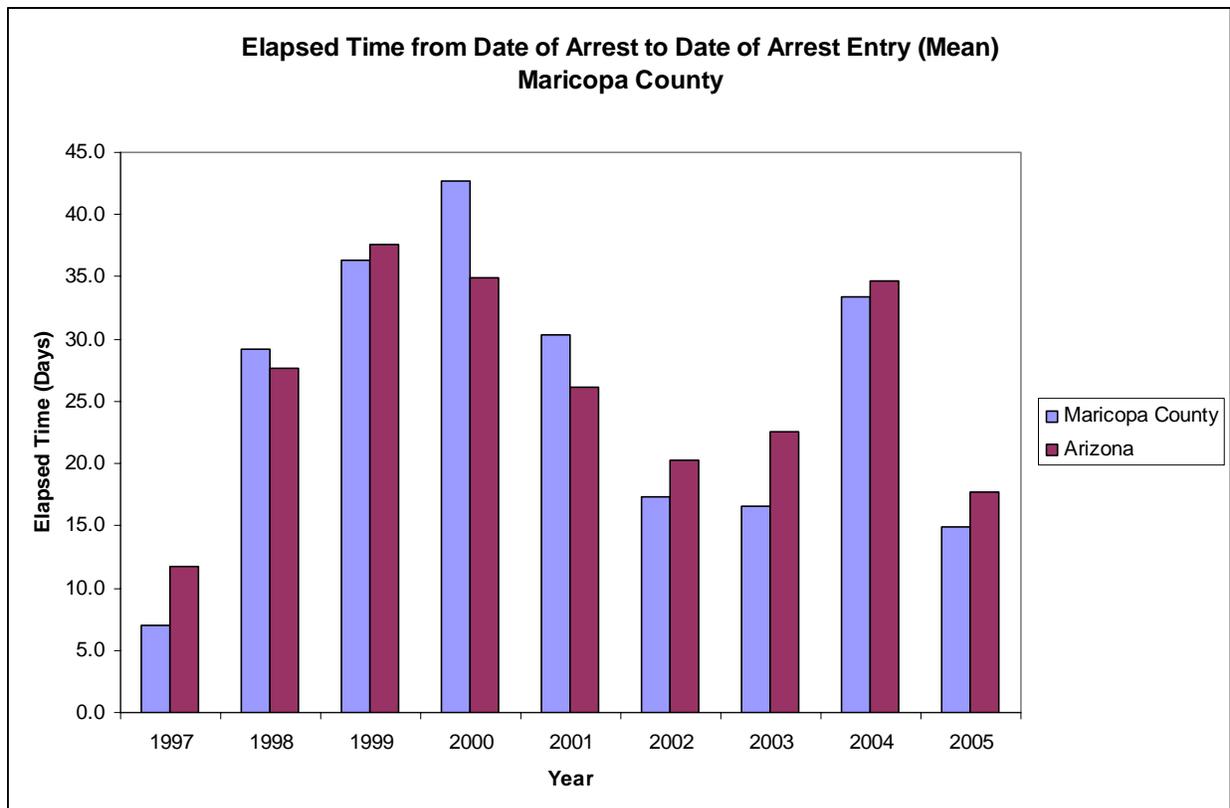


Elapsed Time to Data Entry

Two stable measures of Criminal History Records are the time between the date of disposition to the date of disposition entry, and the time between the date of arrest and the date of arrest entry. With the implementation of electronic fingerprinting programs, many arrests are entered immediately, which has contributed to the decline in the number of days to arrest entry. Arizona totals in the tables and charts below include only entries at the county level. These measures are not comparable to national data, as many states do not have the technological capability to determine these measures. For more detailed elapsed time data, refer to Appendix B.

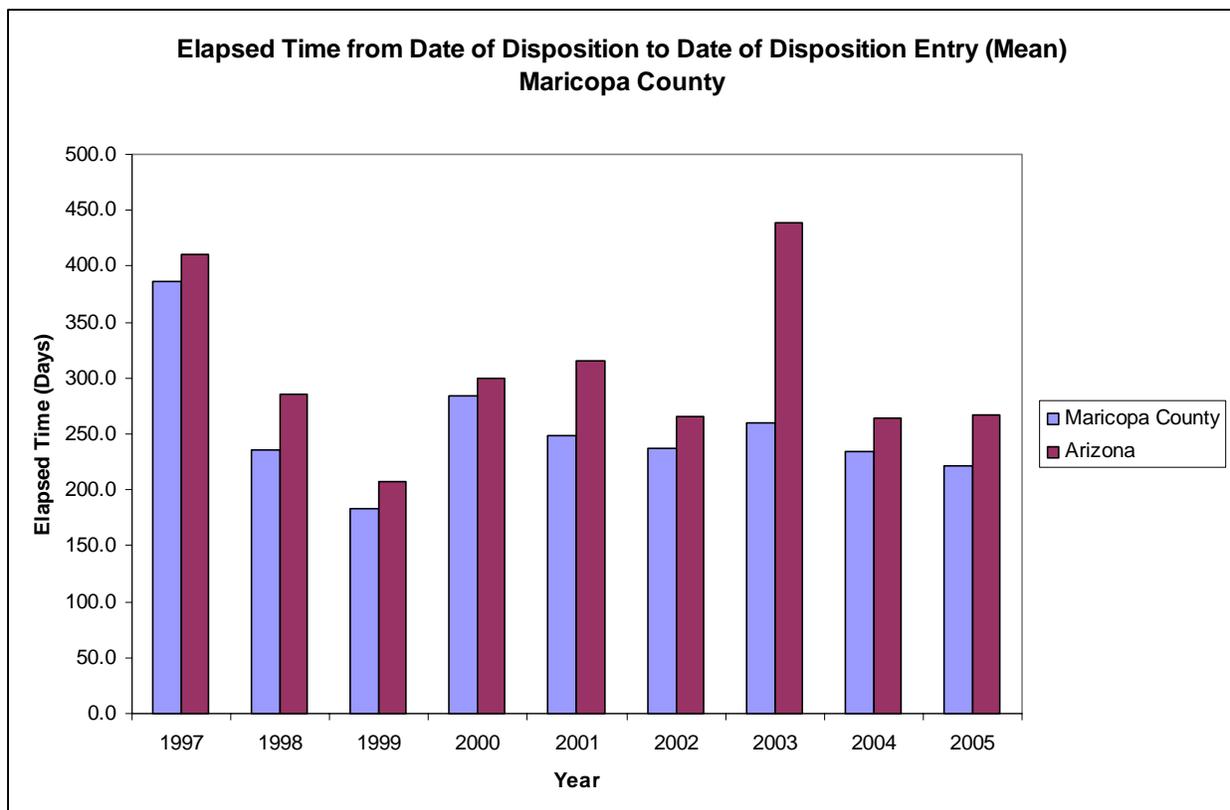
Elapsed Days from Date of Arrest to Date of Arrest Entry (Mean)									
Maricopa County									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Maricopa County	7.1	29.1	36.4	42.7	30.3	17.3	16.6	33.4	14.9
Arizona	11.7	27.6	37.6	34.9	26.1	20.3	22.5	34.7	17.7

In 2005, Maricopa County took an average of 14.9 days to enter an arrest compared to 17.7 days for the entire state.



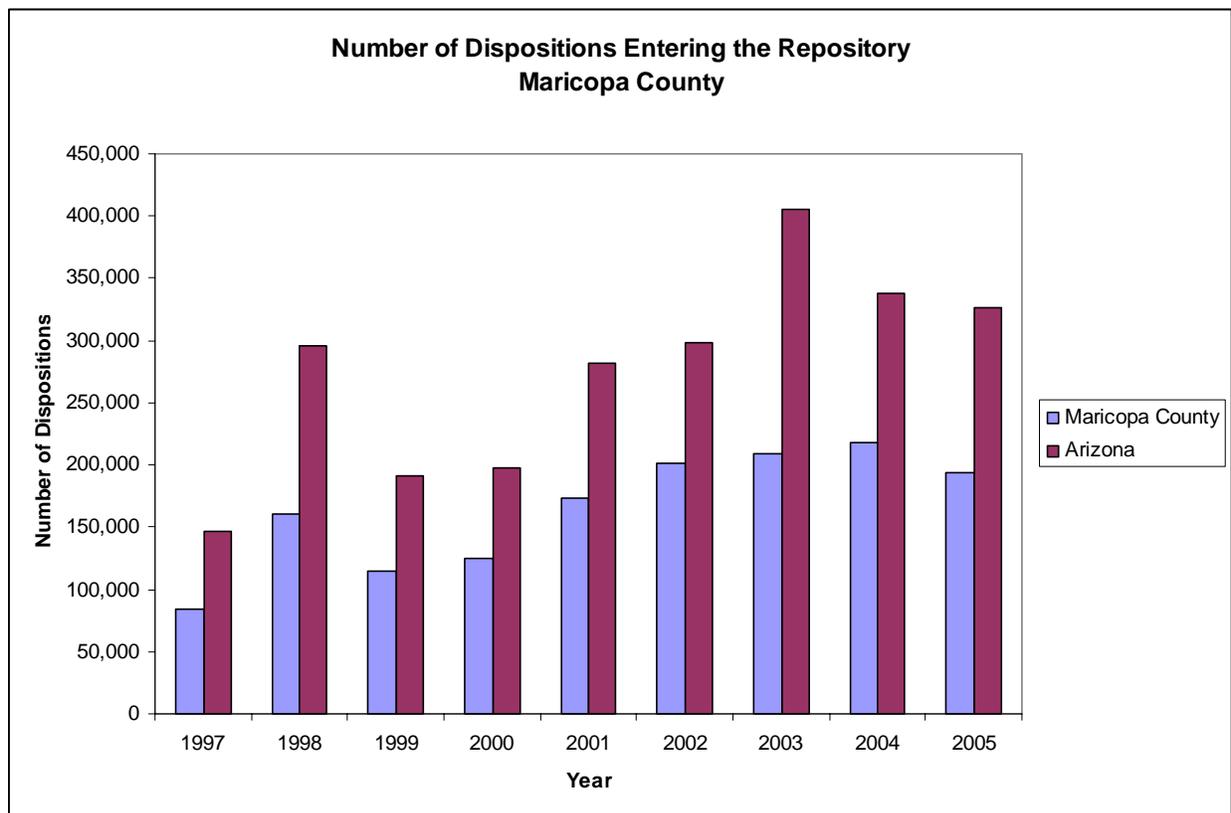
Elapsed Days from Date of Disposition to Date of Disposition Entry (Mean) Maricopa County									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Maricopa County	386.9	235.4	183.7	283.5	248.8	237.2	260.6	233.8	221.1
Arizona	409.8	285.0	208.0	300.3	315.2	265.7	438.4	264.1	266.6

Maricopa County consistently took less time to enter dispositions into ACCH after final disposition than the state as a whole. In 2005, Maricopa County took an average of 221.1 days to enter a disposition, whereas the state took an average of 266.6 days.



Number of Dispositions Entering the Repository Maricopa County									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Maricopa County	84,634	160,628	115,123	125,239	173,666	201,290	208,490	218,206	193,336
Arizona	146,324	295,646	190,981	198,195	282,112	298,911	405,132	337,191	326,235

The chart below shows the number of total dispositions in Arizona, as well as the Maricopa County dispositions. As can be seen, a large proportion of dispositions in Arizona occur in Maricopa County.

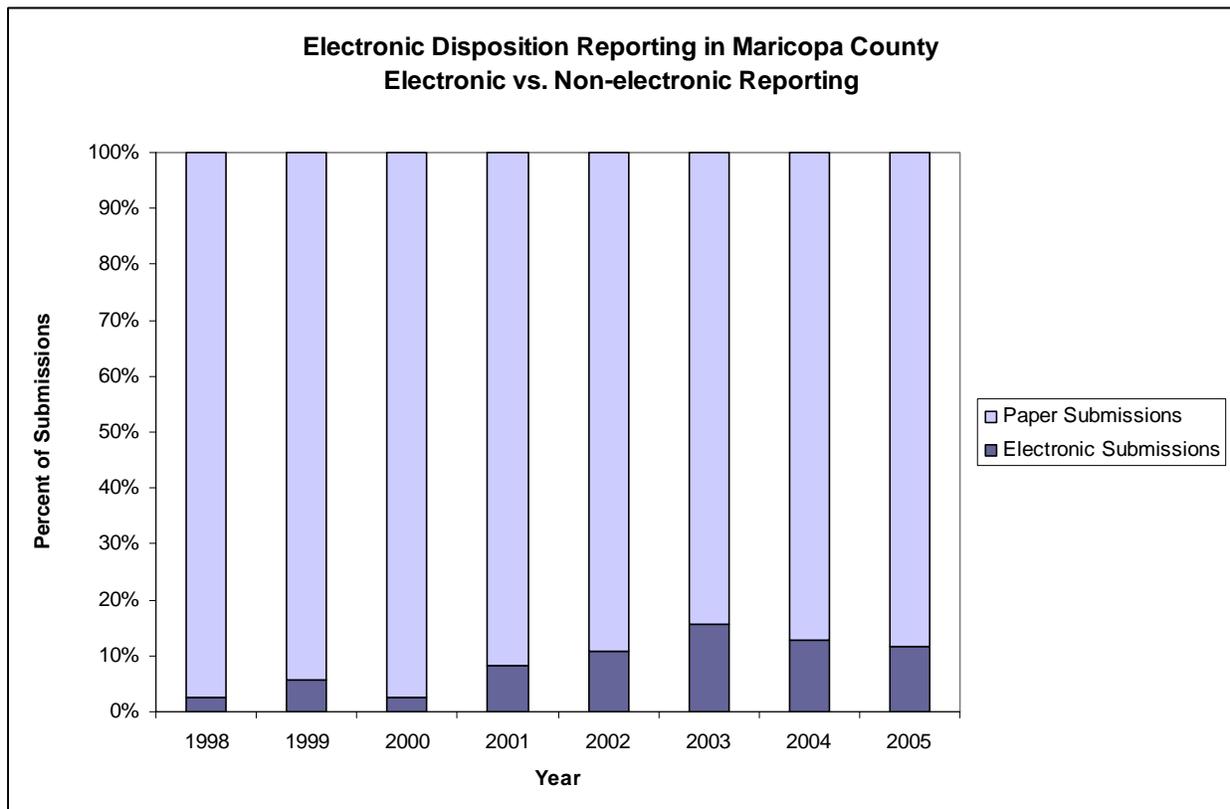


Electronic Disposition Reporting

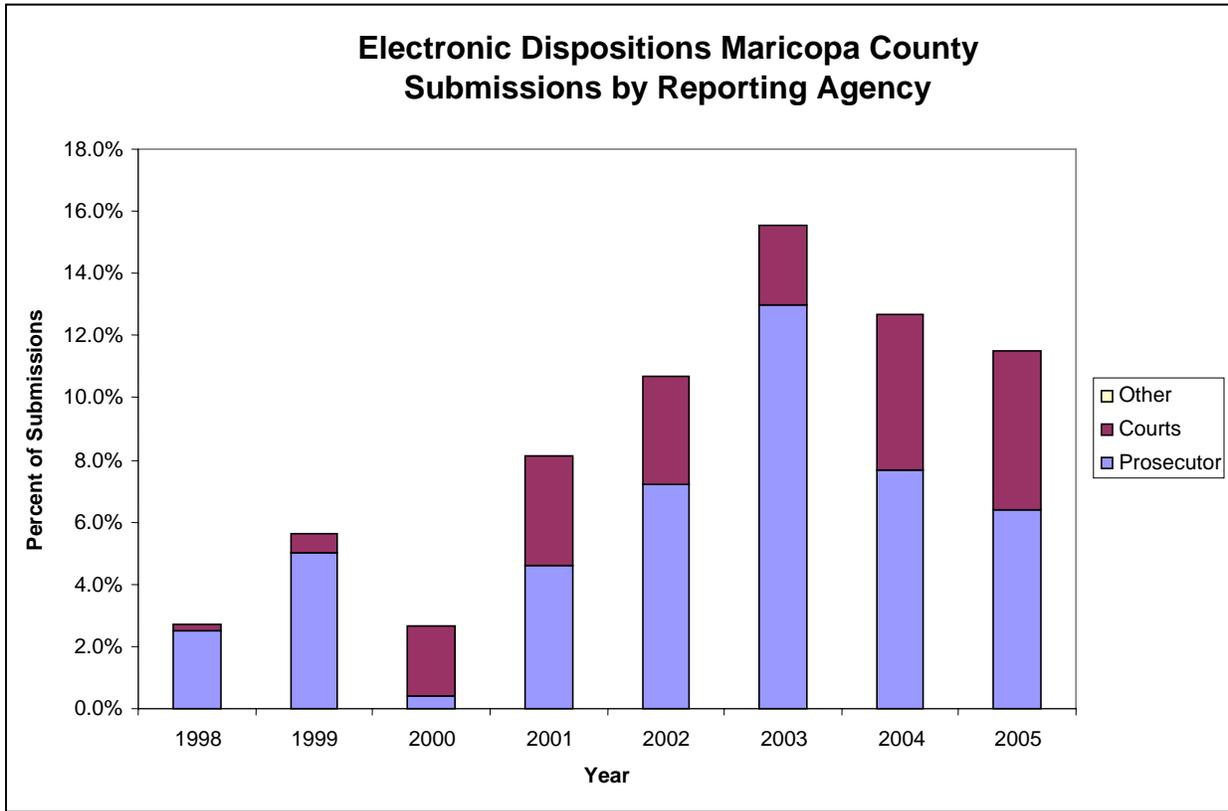
Prior to 1998, no dispositions were submitted to the state repository electronically. In 1998, prosecutors in Arizona submitted 1.3 percent of all dispositions electronically, and the courts submitted 0.1 percent electronically. By 2005, electronic submissions of dispositions had increased to 4.1 percent by prosecutors, 9.1 percent by the courts, and a very small percentage by other sources. However, 86.8 percent of submissions were still done on paper.

Maricopa County closely mirrored the state in electronic dispositions. In 1998, the first year that any dispositions were submitted electronically, 2.7 percent of all dispositions in Maricopa County were electronic with the remaining 97.3 percent being submitted on paper. In 2005, 11.5 percent of all dispositions were submitted electronically. During that year, 6.4 percent of dispositions were submitted electronically by prosecutors and 5.1 percent were submitted electronically by the courts.

Electronic reporting of all dispositions is Arizona's goal. Errors are reduced and submission rates by agencies improve when electronic submission is used. The time spent on each disposition also decreases.



As shown on the chart below, prosecutors originally filed the majority of dispositions. The courts have steadily increased the percent of dispositions submitted and now submit the majority of electronic submissions.



Appendix A

Outcome Measure O(s)

The RQI structure for the outcome portion of the index is a set of weighted measures that reflect the goals for criminal history records at the national level. Included in the weighting factors are automation of record submission, participation in Federal Bureau of Investigation's III database, database flags and submissions to national registries. These items may be viewed as enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of the criminal history record as well as its utility.

Timeliness Measure P₂(s)

The timeliness process measure designated by the descriptor P₂(s) reflects the average elapsed time between the arrest and the final disposition. This measure would reflect the timeliness of the overall record. Timeliness was also measured at key stages of entry into the ACCH. Measures of timeliness include elapsed time from date of arrest record to date of entry of arrest record into ACCH as well as the disposition date to date of entry of disposition record into ACCH.

Completeness Measure P₂(s)

The completeness process measure designated as P₂(s) at the state level reflects the "cohort" of records completeness, i.e. records of arrest made in the same time period. This is reflected in the form of a fraction of those arrests that have final dispositions entered compared to the total arrests records for that time period.

Index Score

The overall performance measure is a numerical index score based on the outcome and process measures identified and includes a scaling factor for comparability among states. Bringing the assessment to a single numerical score allows at a glance an indication of progress over time as well as performance in comparison to the national score.

41-2205. [Criminal justice information system central repository](#)

A. There shall be a central repository for the collection, storage and dissemination of criminal history record information. The department of public safety shall operate the central repository pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted by the commission. The department of public safety shall conduct annual audits to insure each criminal justice agency is complying with rules and regulations governing the maintenance and dissemination of criminal history record information.

B. Each criminal justice agency shall report criminal history record information, whether collected manually or by means of an automated system, to the central repository pursuant to the provisions of sections 41-1750 and 41-1751 (<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp>).

41-1750. Y. Central state repository; department of public safety; duties; funds; accounts; definitions

4. "Central state repository" means the central location within the department for the collection, storage and dissemination of Arizona criminal history records and related criminal justice information.

5. "Criminal history record information" and "criminal history record" means information that is collected by criminal justice agencies on individuals and that consists of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments and other formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising from those actions, sentencing, formal correctional supervisory action and release. Criminal history record information and criminal history record do not include identification information to the extent that the information does not indicate involvement of the individual in the criminal justice system or information relating to juveniles unless they have been adjudicated as adults (<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp>).

For more information regarding the Structured Decisions Corporation and the Record Quality Index please visit their web site at <http://www.sdcorp.net>.

Appendix B

Elapsed Time for Arrest and Disposition Data Entry

Elapsed Time from Date of Arrest to Date of Arrest Entry (Mean)									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Apache	3.0	14.8	121.8	20.3	15.9	9.3	18.7	40.2	51.1
Cochise	18.9	33.4	44.2	28.4	33.2	34.2	54.9	43.7	15.8
Coconino	16.3	22.3	35.9	7.6	11.3	10.7	16.5	43.3	29.5
Gila	17.7	32.0	44.8	23.1	15.2	22.5	22.6	33.6	14.9
Graham	39.3	60.7	39.2	36.7	48.3	48.1	67.4	66.4	53.7
Greenlee	7.8	55.6	39.9	5.2	6.3	12.0	8.9	18.2	26.7
La Paz	9.5	17.6	34.7	18.4	28.2	18.1	28.6	42.5	69.5
Maricopa	7.1	29.1	36.4	42.7	30.3	17.3	16.6	33.4	14.9
Mohave	39.2	32.4	40.0	80.8	56.0	30.3	30.8	27.7	7.4
Navajo	18.2	23.5	36.8	14.1	23.7	23.4	40.9	27.8	13.0
Pima	6.1	19.5	38.4	14.5	15.6	31.3	37.9	47.0	26.2
Pinal	22.4	43.7	45.1	9.6	9.8	10.5	19.8	28.2	19.4
Santa Cruz	15.7	22.6	37.5	5.3	11.7	15.1	30.0	11.3	35.4
Yavapai	87.1	35.4	29.4	15.6	14.2	16.1	15.8	10.9	6.4
Yuma	12.7	13.0	40.8	11.9	12.6	29.3	18.9	12.5	7.6
Arizona	11.7	27.6	37.6	34.9	26.1	20.3	22.5	34.7	17.7

Number of Arrests Submitted to Central State Repository by County									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Apache	1,176	1,124	1,404	1,648	1,390	1,452	1,983	1,486	1,953
Cochise	5,188	5,774	6,102	5,819	6,552	5,515	8,971	9,642	10,225
Coconino	11,000	10,821	13,665	13,739	13,398	14,676	14,784	14,899	15,236
Gila	4,006	5,118	4,999	4,628	5,123	5,869	5,189	5,963	5,875
Graham	1,173	811	1,190	1,319	1,422	1,415	1,465	1,513	1,505
Greenlee	629	572	352	503	615	713	725	596	734
La Paz	2,827	2,270	2,412	2,498	3,075	3,102	3,155	2,855	3,074
Maricopa	214,185	227,014	250,054	259,465	249,899	254,566	253,380	256,778	260,319
Mohave	8,658	11,937	14,538	14,196	14,391	14,309	15,225	16,713	18,486
Navajo	6,451	5,872	6,565	6,098	6,656	6,046	7,829	8,066	9,154
Pima	51,271	52,458	63,609	56,647	65,260	65,731	73,387	89,541	88,006
Pinal	10,740	9,340	12,160	12,500	14,021	14,695	14,578	13,158	13,859
Santa Cruz	2,947	3,116	3,624	3,692	4,064	4,380	4,196	3,687	4,536
Yavapai	9,694	7,864	8,301	10,602	12,269	10,033	15,559	16,258	17,629
Yuma	11,206	9,388	11,230	10,592	10,843	12,154	14,227	14,293	13,327
Arizona	341,151	353,479	400,205	403,946	408,978	414,656	434,653	455,448	463,918

Elapsed Time from Date of Disposition to Date of Disposition Entry (Mean)									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Apache	414.6	193.6	323.9	493.2	218.6	302.6	361.7	357.3	291.1
Cochise	407.6	263.8	226.2	362.5	228.6	261.8	399.1	281.6	197.5
Coconino	434.1	253.9	179.3	291.3	237.2	236.6	266.2	207.5	226.7
Gila	416.6	261.0	223.4	251.6	222.1	365.5	276.0	256.1	161.2
Graham	433.2	349.1	144.8	178.0	135.0	206.8	228.4	148.8	177.3
Greenlee	453.1	411.4	202.2	189.4	203.0	260.3	510.8	370.0	255.7
La Paz	400.7	230.7	194.1	251.7	255.6	340.0	442.3	408.6	364.3
Maricopa	386.9	235.4	183.7	283.5	248.8	237.2	260.6	233.8	221.1
Mohave	417.4	176.4	144.7	275.2	259.0	296.7	334.5	337.5	270.1
Navajo	437.0	311.3	188.1	277.2	260.7	252.6	317.4	352.8	371.6
Pima	469.5	443.2	332.6	457.1	659.4	422.4	812.4	404.1	474.5
Pinal	407.4	266.3	130.5	203.3	229.6	173.3	291.3	248.2	269.1
Santa Cruz	449.0	312.8	143.7	183.8	226.0	357.6	350.7	226.7	174.3
Yavapai	444.6	291.9	261.8	257.1	231.9	274.6	400.1	334.1	301.5
Yuma	416.2	265.5	210.4	255.0	204.1	351.0	261.3	253.5	107.9
Arizona	409.8	285.0	208.0	300.3	315.2	265.7	438.4	264.1	266.6

Number of Dispositions Submitted to Central State Repository by County									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Apache	832	1,131	846	1,041	1,290	1,223	1,232	1,792	1,594
Cochise	3,243	4,694	3,820	4,148	3,679	3,290	3,986	7,580	7,747
Coconino	4,053	8,674	4,814	6,233	9,165	8,024	8,719	9,934	11,518
Gila	2,396	4,554	3,005	2,680	3,552	3,965	4,490	5,133	4,380
Graham	980	1,440	812	918	1,215	1,452	1,113	1,152	1,232
Greenlee	113	904	272	213	369	426	553	754	513
La Paz	84,634	160,628	115,123	125,239	173,666	201,290	208,490	218,206	193,336
Maricopa	6,090	10,741	7,939	7,374	9,334	9,937	9,992	13,307	13,442
Mohave	1,627	4,964	2,225	2,101	2,610	3,231	3,821	2,459	3,285
Navajo	24,413	61,429	28,665	24,247	48,243	30,646	122,854	36,125	54,451
Pima	2,813	7,739	5,716	7,006	7,706	9,805	11,260	11,636	9,993
Pinal	1,771	3,329	2,290	2,189	3,024	3,233	4,130	2,856	2,937
Santa Cruz	4,228	10,567	6,349	6,198	7,760	9,188	8,224	10,568	8,608
Yavapai	8,096	12,614	7,576	7,043	8,896	10,817	13,453	12,934	10,620
Yuma	1,035	2,238	1,529	1,565	1,603	2,384	2,815	2,755	2,579
Arizona	146,324	295,646	190,981	198,195	282,112	298,911	405,132	337,191	326,235

For more information please contact:

Pat Nelson
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Systems Improvement Program Manager
(602) 364-1152
pnelson@azcjc.gov

Steve Ballance
Statistical Analysis Center
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
(602) 364-1157
sballance@azcjc.gov

Janice Simpson
Statistical Analysis Center
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
(602) 364-1186
jsimpson@azcjc.gov