

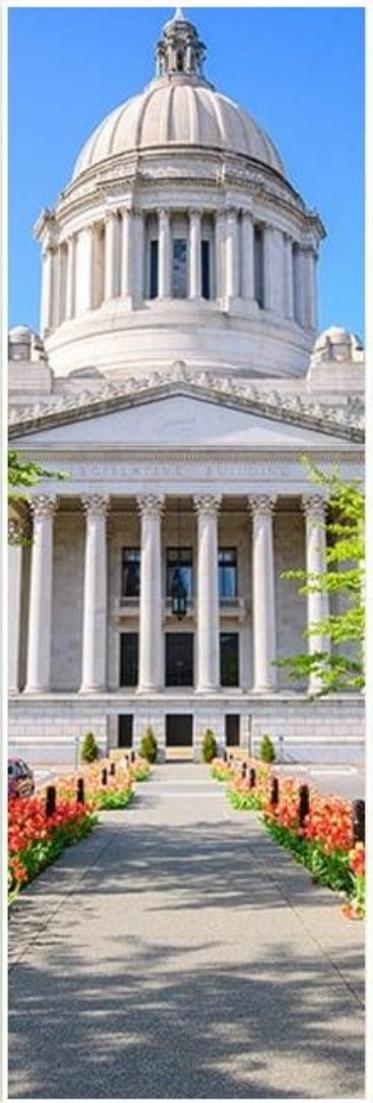
WASHINGTON STATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

# Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Center

Informing a data-driven justice system

## The Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Center – the Washington SAC: The Program Manual

Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry, Ph.D. & Hanna Hernandez, M.A.



## Contents

About the CJRSC – the Washington SAC .....	3
Introduction .....	4
Purpose .....	4
Office of Financial Management .....	4
Forecasting and Research .....	4
Public Safety Policy and Research Center .....	4
Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Center – the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center .....	5
History of Statistical Analysis Centers .....	5
History of the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center .....	5
Program Overview .....	6
Mission .....	6
Values .....	6
Program Goals .....	6
SJS Grant-Funded Projects .....	6

To accommodate people with disabilities, this document is available in alternate formats by calling the Office of Financial Management at 360-902-0555.

## About the CJRSC – the Washington SAC

SACs are found across the nation in 51 states and territories. As the Washington SAC, the CJRSC is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and reporting public safety and criminal justice related statistics to federal, state, and local levels of government. We also facilitate the sharing of state-level information nationally. The information produced by SACs and their involvement in criminal justice projects is critical to local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies and community organizations as they develop programs and policies related to crime, illegal drugs, victim services, and the administration of justice.

SACs play a vital role in developing criminal and juvenile justice policy at the state and local levels. Their research provides evidence that policymakers use to guide their decision-making. By furthering the use of evidence-based practices in their states, SACs promote the effective and efficient administration of criminal and juvenile justice.

## Contact Us

**Phone**

360-902-0599

**Fax**

360-586-1988

**Address**

P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

**Website**

[sac.ofm.wa.gov](http://sac.ofm.wa.gov)

## Acknowledgements

This CJRSC – the Washington SAC would not be possible without the help and support of the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)' State Justice Statistics (SJS) grant.

## Version History

Date	Version	Author(s)	Revision Note
02/18/2026	1.0	Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry, PhD	Document creation

## Introduction

### Purpose

This document describes the history, purpose, goals, and implementation strategy of the Traffic Records Integration Program. This document is intended for current and potential data partners, data customers, oversight entities, and the public.

### Office of Financial Management

The [Office of Financial Management](#) (OFM) provides vital information, fiscal services and policy support that the governor, Legislature, and state agencies need to serve the people of Washington. OFM plays a central role in budget planning, policy development, and fiscal administration for the executive branch. It is responsible for preparing the executive budget proposal and monitoring budget implementation. Additionally, OFM conducts executive policy research and develops legislation to support the Governor's policy goals. It provides estimates of state and local population, monitors changes in the state economy and labor force, and conducts research on a variety of issues affecting the state budget and public policy.

### Forecasting and Research

[OFM's Forecasting and Research](#) is a data, research, and statistical analysis division of OFM which is uniquely positioned to provide data to and inform decisions made by the Governor, the legislature, other state agencies, research communities, and the public. Forecasting and Research is home to the [Public Safety Policy and Research Center](#) (PSPRC), the Population Unit, the Forecasting Systems Units, Health care Research Center (HCRC), and the [Education Research and Data Center](#) (ERDC), covering subject areas ranging from health care to education, demographic characteristics, criminal justice, traffic safety, and economic trends. These data and research centers incorporate the values of privacy, security, and access and are committed to promoting diverse and inclusive research communities, reliable data sources, rigorous program evaluations, and accessible information.

### Public Safety Policy and Research Center

The [Public Safety Policy and Research Center](#) (PSPRC) is a data and research center located within OFM's Forecasting and Research Division. The center maintains data repositories, performs research and analysis and provides expertise related to public safety topics including criminal justice, traffic safety, public health, and corrections. The PSPRC houses the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, the Sex Offender Policy Board, the Criminal Justice Research and Statistics Center - Washington's Statistical Analysis Center, and the Traffic Records Integration Program.

## Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Center – the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center

### History of Statistical Analysis Centers

Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) were established in the United States in response to growing national concern about crime during the 1960s. Their creation was closely tied to the passage of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, which established the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) within the U.S. Department of Justice. The LEAA provided federal funding to states to strengthen their criminal justice systems, and one key component of this effort was the development of state-level Statistical Analysis Centers. These centers were designed to collect, analyze, and interpret criminal justice data, helping states make informed, data-driven policy decisions. By the early 1970s, many states had established SACs as part of their justice planning infrastructure.

After the LEAA was dissolved in 1982, SACs continued to operate under the support and guidance of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), which assumed responsibility for federal justice statistics programs. Through the State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program, BJS maintains and enhances each state's capacity to address criminal justice issues through the systematic collection and analysis of data. The SJS Program provides limited funding to each state to coordinate statistical activities, conduct research to estimate the impacts of legislative and policy changes, and serve in a liaison role to assist BJS in gathering data from respondent agencies within their states. Through this program, BJS supports SACs across the states and territories, strengthening collaboration between federal and state statistical systems.

SACs are state-level units or agencies that utilize data from criminal and juvenile justice systems to conduct objective analyses of statewide and system-wide policy issues. There are currently SACs operating in 53 states and territories. Their placement within state government structures varies considerably. While most SACs are located within criminal justice agencies or general state planning or coordinating bodies, some operate as part of a governor's advisory staff, and others are housed within line agencies such as state police departments, attorney general's offices, or universities.

The activities of SACs are broad and policy-focused. They collect, analyze, and distribute criminal justice data; conduct research relevant to legislative and policy questions; and design and implement automated information systems that improve data reporting and integration. As a result, SACs play a vital role in shaping criminal and juvenile justice policy at both the state and local levels. Their research provides evidence that policymakers rely upon to guide decision-making, and by promoting evidence-based practices, SACs contribute to the effective and efficient administration of justice systems nationwide.

### History of the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center

In 1989, Governor Booth Gardner by executive order ([Executive Order 89-03](#)) designated the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center for criminal and juvenile justice issues. The Washington State SAC is located in the Health and Human Services Section of OFM's Forecasting & Research Division. OFM, as the state's central management agency and as the governor's budget, research, and policy office, is uniquely positioned to facilitate, implement and coordinate an integrated approach to research and forecasting for justice-related programs in the state.

In forty years of operation, the Washington SAC has successfully conducted and distributed numerous research, forecast, and statistical summaries of key criminal justice indicators investigating the causes of change in the criminal justice system. The SAC also serves as an information clearinghouse for criminal justice research and statistics by collecting state and federal documents and reports, representing data from such entities as the Administrative Office for the Courts, the Department of Corrections, the Caseload Forecast Council, and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

## Program Overview

The Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Center (CJRSC) is Washington state's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). We conduct and publish objective, policy-relevant research and analysis on justice issues, provide technical assistance, and maintain a clearinghouse of state justice-related data.

SACs are found across the nation in 51 states and territories. As the Washington SAC, the CJRSC is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and reporting public safety and criminal justice related statistics to federal, state, and local levels of government. We also facilitate the sharing of state-level information nationally. The information produced by SACs and their involvement in criminal justice projects is critical to local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies and community organizations as they develop programs and policies related to crime, illegal drugs, victim services, and the administration of justice.

SACs play a vital role in developing criminal and juvenile justice policy at the state and local levels. Their research provides evidence that policymakers use to guide their decision-making. By furthering the use of evidence-based practices in their states, SACs promote the effective and efficient administration of criminal and juvenile justice.

## Mission

The mission of the CJRSC-WA SAC is to provide assistance in the successful coordination, implementation, and monitoring of public policy.

## Values

The SAC encourages and supports innovative and rigorous research methods that can provide answers to basic research questions as well as practical, applied solution.

The SAC intends to translate data into meaningful information that drives the state's commitment to achieve equitable and just outcomes for Washingtonians. Using quantitative tools to influence qualitative decision making, the SAC can tell the story of the people served across the state and the people who serve them within state government. This includes developing metrics, monitoring trends, disseminating reports, and delivering presentations to educate state agencies, stakeholders, and impacted communities

## Program Goals

The goals of the CJRSC are as follows:

- To be timely and accurate
- To provide easy, one-stop access to criminal and juvenile justice data and information
- To remain trustworthy and unbiased
- To assist those making evidence-based policy decisions to better our community

## SJS Grant-Funded Projects

Under the FY2024 State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program award from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics (one-year award), the Washington SAC advanced research on racial and ethnic disparities and expanded data access. Through the Core Capacity-Building project, the SAC will use NIBRS incident-based crime data to assess disparities across the three major offense categories—crimes against persons, property, and society—and compare patterns across all NIBRS categories, examining structural factors and policy impacts over time to inform fairness assessments. The SAC will also expand the Justice Data Warehouse to incorporate criminal history background check data from the Washington State Patrol, increasing access to fingerprint-based records and court disposition data. Under the Special Emphasis project, the SAC will evaluate racial and ethnic disparities at key justice system decision points, including arrests, sentencing, and incarceration or community supervision. In 2023, the JDW received approval from the Washington State

Institutional Review Board (WSIRB). The WSIRB serves as the oversight body that regulates research which may involve state agencies' data on individuals in Washington State.

Under the FY2023 State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program award from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics (one-year award), the Washington SAC focused on examining racial and ethnic disparities and strengthening data access. Through the Core Capacity-Building project, the SAC used NIBRS incident-based crime data to evaluate disparities across the three major offense categories—crimes against persons, property, and society—analyzing underlying structural factors and policy influences to better understand fairness in Washington's criminal justice system. The SAC also worked to expand the Justice Data Warehouse by incorporating criminal history background check data from the Washington State Patrol, including fingerprint-based records and court disposition information. Under the Special Emphasis project, the SAC assessed disparities at key justice system decision points, including policing and arrests, trial and sentencing, and incarceration or community supervision.