

# Overview

## NATIONAL JUSTICE DATABASE

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### **What is the National Justice Database?**

The National Justice Database – the nation’s first database tracking statistics on police behavior, including stops and use of force – capitalizes on existing research collaborations between the Center for Policing Equity and law enforcement agencies across the country to standardize the collection of policing data. To date, over 50 law enforcement agencies have committed to participate, including more than half of all major cities, representing more than 25% of the nation’s population. The database is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation as well as grants from a number of private organizations, allowing agencies to provide informational resources without financial burden.

### **What kind of data goes into the National Justice Database?**

The research team leading the National Justice Database will look at six primary sources of data:

- Use of force incidents
- Vehicle stops
- Pedestrian stops
- Policy documentation
- Officer responses to a voluntary, confidential climate survey
- Overall population demographics and crime statistics

### **What if our department can’t provide everything that CPE wants to collect?**

That is OK. It is important to remember that the more data CPE receives from your department, the more comprehensive the analysis can be. But even if your department does not collect all the data points listed above, you can still get an extremely valuable analysis of the data you are able to provide.

Additionally, your report will include helpful suggestions regarding data collection and standardization so that, going forward, you can receive an even more comprehensive analysis from CPE’s team of distinguished researchers and law enforcement professionals.

### **How much does it cost to get the analysis?**

There is no charge to participate in the National Justice Database, and the analyses and report are free. The Center for Policing Equity’s work is funded by grants from both public and private foundations.

### **How long will it take us to pull together all the data?**

This varies from department to department, and will largely depend on the systems, methods and policies that shape your department's data collection and storage. Another contributing factor is whether your department has a dedicated data professional on staff.

Some departments have received our data request documentation and returned data to us within a few days; others have requested more one-on-one guidance to assemble the requisite files, and decide to split up the data work over time, sending pieces to us as they are able to produce them.

### **Will we recoup our costs in terms of the time spent on assembling the data?**

Departments are not reimbursed for time invested in participating, but as noted above, the final report is provided free of charge, which contains a customized analysis of the data and any recommendations for the department.

### **How can we be sure of the security and confidentiality of our data?**

CPE uses PowerDMS for data transfer because it meets CJIS compliance, is encrypted with TLS/SSL utilizing 128 bit AES-CBC encryption, and is a SSAR-16 certified data center. Each agency receives unique login credentials so that data files can be uploaded securely.

When a department's data collection is complete, the files are moved to an air-gapped computer located at the CPE office, in a private room accessible only by keypad. The files are then deleted permanently from PowerDMS.

### **What will you do with our data?**

CPE will provide a customized analysis to each department, whose leadership can then decide whether (and with whom) they share the report. De-identified, aggregated data sets are then added to the National Justice Database itself, which bears no agency names or location detail.

### **What are the components of the NJD report?**

Analyses will vary from department to department. Below is an outline of sections from a sample NJD report:

- Section 1: Data
- Section 2: Descriptive Statistics and Disparities
- Section 3: Interpreting Disparities
- Section 4: Officer-level Analyses
- Section 5: Climate Survey
- Section 6: Policy Analyses
- Section 7: Review and Recommendations

## **Who will see our data?**

The data/IT professional at each agency will produce the raw data files sent to CPE, and the research team at CPE will work with the data to standardize, analyze, and de-identify it. The deidentified data will be used to write the report.

The Chief, Commissioner, Superintendent or Sheriff will then receive the report itself, which will contain tables of department data as well as references to specific data points and policies in the analysis.

CPE will also use aggregated departmental data, scrubbed of any mention of the department name or location, in comparative analyses to identify national or regional trends.

## **Climate and Attitude-Behavior Matching Surveys**

The climate survey of officers helps us better understand trends within the department. In order to assess the role that department climate has on police behavior, the CPE will also conduct an “attitude/behavior matching” analysis. This involves recruiting patrol officers who agree to answer survey questions about a range of psychological factors and allow CPE to link individual survey responses to their performance histories.

It’s important to note, that we report only in the aggregate and decouple identities from the answers they provide, so everything remains **completely confidential**.

*Both surveys are completely optional and for the employees in your agency. Some of the topics covered in the survey include employees’ perspectives on:*

- The department’s policies and leadership
- The department’s culture and practices
- The department’s relationship with the community
- Different social groups in your community