



**PERFORMANCE REPORTS:**

**SUPREME COURT DATA COLLECTION  
AND INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEMS**

# **DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEMS (FORMERLY DATA GATHERING SYSTEMS)**

The Supreme Court supports systems for gathering data on itself, the courts of appeal, the district courts, the city and parish courts, and specialized courts within the judiciary. The data is published in the Supreme Court annual report and shared with other authorized agencies. The systems are as follows:

- The Criminal Disposition Data Collection System
- The Criminal Justice Information System
- The Drug Court Case Management System
- The Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System
- Families in Need of Services Data Collection System
- The Louisiana Protective Order Registry
- The Traffic Violation Data Collection System
- The Court of Appeal Reporting System
- The District Court Reporting System
- The Juvenile and Family Court Reporting System
- The Parish and City Court Reporting System
- The Office of Special Counsel Data Collection System

Each of these systems is briefly described below.

## **THE CRIMINAL DISPOSITION DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM**

The Criminal Disposition Data Collection System contains an electronic database of criminal filing, disposition, and sentencing information. All sixty-four parishes participate in the program, as required by Acts 403/404 of 2013. Through the Supreme Court's Case Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division, information in the database is collected and transmitted to state and federal agencies for entry in their criminal information systems.

After the data is received from each clerk of court, CMIS staff members review it to ensure its accuracy and transferability according to predefined standards and definitions. CMIS staff members work with clerks of court and software providers across the state to quickly resolve any problems that may be discovered during data audits, which are conducted regularly throughout the year. Regular visits to the district courts allow CMIS staff to resolve hardware, software, data quality, data input, and transmission issues.

After CMIS staff members review the data, they transmit it electronically to state and federal agencies. The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections receives this information for use in its Computerized Criminal History (CCH) records, the official state depository of arrest records. The disposition record is matched with the CCH arrest record, creating a complete offense record. In 2014, 13,942 dispositions were matched to a criminal history record in the State Police Computerized Criminal History database. In 2015, 17,644 dispositions were matched to a criminal history record in the State Police Computerized Criminal History database.



Criminal disposition information is also transmitted to the FBI for entry in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) database and the NCIC computerized database of documented criminal justice information operated under a shared management concept between the FBI and state and federal criminal justice agencies, and is available to virtually every law enforcement agency in the U.S. The NICS database is used to determine eligibility when a citizen has requested to purchase a firearm. In 2014, 37,852 dispositions were posted to the FBI National Instant Check System (NICS) database. Of these records, 23,458 were felony convictions, 13,061 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, 59 were verdicts of not guilty by reason of insanity, 158 were decisions that the defendant was incompetent to stand trial, 781 were probation restrictions, and 335 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions.

Additionally, in 2014, 718 civil commitment orders and 7 civil court orders under La. R.S. 13:753A(5) were posted to the NICS database.

In 2014, CMIS also posted, on behalf of the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, 14,752 criminal and civil protection orders to the NCIC database.

During 2015, 36,043 dispositions were posted to NICS. Of these records, 28,848 were felony convictions, 3,989 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, 80 were verdicts of not guilty by reason of insanity, 519 were decisions that the defendant was incompetent to stand trial, 1,680 were probation restrictions, and 927 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions.

Additionally, in 2015, 1,074 civil commitment orders, 5 criminal commitment orders, and 25 criminal orders under La. R.S. 13:753A(5) were posted to the NICS database.

In 2015, CMIS also posted, on behalf of the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, 22,047 criminal and civil protection orders to the NCIC database.

CMIS staff also facilitates the transmission of criminal information between the Louisiana District Attorneys Association database and the case management systems of those clerks of court that are currently reporting criminal data.

## **THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM**

The Criminal Justice Information System is a web-based query program, supported by CMIS, that allows authorized agencies to access state and federal criminal justice information systems. The system provides a standardized, user-friendly format for judicial officials to interface with state and federal agency criminal history databases, protective order registries, and motor vehicle records. Access to the information is governed by federal and state laws regarding criminal justice information systems and is restricted to use for criminal justice purposes. There are currently 480 registered users of this system.

## **THE DRUG COURT CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

In 2004, the Supreme Court Drug Court Office (SCDCO) launched its statewide Drug Court Case Management System (DCCM), which is designed to meet local drug court case management needs. The system provides an important statewide link among criminal justice, treatment, corrections, and other professionals in the drug court arena.



The DCCM is a web-based system which allows multiple users to input and access critical offender data in a real-time format. The SDCDO developed the system with significant input from users. The DCCM allows local drug court programs to track clients through the drug court process by providing a single database in which demographic, program status, treatment, and discharge data can be maintained, quickly accessed, and easily shared.

The SCDCO also uses the system to generate data related to key performance indicators such as recidivism, relapse, and social functioning as measured by changes in education, employment, and other variables.

## **THE INTEGRATED JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM**

The Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System (IJJIS) was developed to accomplish three levels of integration:

- The integration of all functions within the juvenile court, i.e., intake and assessment, docketing, calendaring, case management, notice and document generation, appeals tracking, warrant tracking, automated minute entry, and financial record keeping;
- The integration of all case types (child abuse and neglect, delinquency, families in need of services, adoption, child support, etc.) through the use of common family identifiers;
- The integration of information from all agencies involved in juvenile court proceedings (the protective services agency, law enforcement agencies, the district attorney, the indigent defender, probation and parole agencies, treatment facilities, corrections agencies, the public school system, and other agencies).

IJJIS includes case management functionality for Families in Need of Services, Child in Need of Care, and other juvenile jurisdiction case types such as those relating to juvenile delinquency, traffic, mental health proceedings, and others. During the period of this report, IJJIS was partially or fully operational in the following jurisdictions: Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court, 16th Judicial District Court, 14th Judicial District Court, and Caddo Parish Juvenile Court. This system contains approximately 148,383 case records.

## **THE LOUISIANA PROTECTIVE ORDER REGISTRY**

The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is a statewide repository of court orders issued to provide protection from domestic abuse, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault and to aid law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts in handling such matters. LPOR was established by law in 1997. The Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's office was given the responsibility for developing standardized order forms mandated for use by all courts and for collecting the order data and entering it into the registry. The registry was launched in 1999.

Records contained in the registry are available to state and local law enforcement agencies, district attorney offices, the Office of Community Services of the Department of Social Services, the Bureau of Protective Services of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Elderly Protective Services Division of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, the Office of the Louisiana Attorney General, and the courts.

During 2015, LPOR staff responded to 249 requests for order verification from examiners with the FBI's NICS program, which is designed to prevent the sale of firearms and explosives to those who under federal law are prohibited from buying them.



During the period, LPOR staff also responded to 1,360 requests for order verification from local, state, and out-of-state law enforcement officials who were conducting investigations involving the subject of a Louisiana order of protection.

Ongoing training of those who play a role in preparing, issuing, and enforcing orders of protection is an LPOR staff priority. Toward that end, members of LPOR’s training team provided four presentations and workshops during 2015 at the request of other agencies and organizations. This training reached 239 individuals.

LPOR also provided eight LPOR Legal Seminars that reached 345 individuals, and two LPOR Judicial Training Project programs that reached 71 individuals.

In all, LPOR staff reached 655 people with critical information about effective prevention and intervention strategies used to respond to domestic abuse, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault.

In 2015, LPOR staff received and entered 26,050 orders from Louisiana courts. Of these, 16,836 (65%) were civil orders and 9,214 (35%) were criminal orders. A breakdown—by type—of the orders entered into LPOR beginning in 2012 is provided in the tables below.

**Table One: Civil Orders**

<b>Civil Orders:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Temporary Restraining Orders	12,034	12,122	12,000	12,971
Protective Orders	3,155	3,324	3,340	3,754
Preliminary Injunctions	23	31	53	62
Permanent Injunctions	46	39	33	49
<b>Total Civil Orders</b>	<b>15,258</b>	<b>15,516</b>	<b>15,426</b>	<b>16,836</b>

**Table Two: Criminal Orders**

<b>Criminal Orders:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Bail Restrictions	3,701	3,704	4,912	6,583
Peace Bonds	189	270	274	346
Combined Bail/Peace Bonds	626	669	706	1,098
Sentencing Orders	0	0	0	0
Probation Conditions	0	0	0	0
Combined Sentencing/Probation	1,100	1,178	1,136	1,187
<b>Total Criminal Orders</b>	<b>5,616</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>9,214</b>

**Table Three: Combined Orders**

<b>Combined Orders:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Civil and Criminal Order Totals	20,874	21,337	22,454	26,050



## THE TRAFFIC VIOLATION DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

City, district, and mayors' courts electronically report driver history records to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) through the Traffic Violation Data Collection System. The courts transmit the data to CMIS, where it is audited for accuracy, completeness, and transferability. CMIS works with each court and software provider to ensure a quick resolution to any problems that may be discovered during the audit.

Once the data meets the minimum criteria set forth by the Office of Motor Vehicles, it is placed on a server for retrieval by OMV. This system expedites the process by which OMV, as well as judges and prosecutors around the state, receive traffic case data.

One of the many benefits of the system is reduced paperwork for clerks of court. In the past, clerks sent traffic information to OMV by mailing the original tickets to the OMV with the dispositions written on them. OMV staff would then type the violations into their case management system, a time consuming and often error-prone process. The electronic transmission of driver history information is faster and less error-prone, resulting in more efficient traffic violations management.

Another benefit is the rapid notification to OMV of driver license suspensions when a defendant fails to appear in court. Defendants are notified that their licenses have been suspended immediately following a failure to appear.

In 2014, the Traffic Violation Data Collection System received 755,125 traffic records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information from 59 district courts, 15 city courts, and 9 mayor's courts. Of those records, 244,978 were posted to the OMV driver history database. During 2015, the Traffic Violation Data Collection system received 851,283 traffic records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information from 61 district courts, 16 city courts, and 11 mayor's courts. Of those records, 255,876 records were posted to the OMV driver history database.

## THE COURT OF APPEALS REPORTING SYSTEM

The Court of Appeals Reporting System stores case-related information from all five of the appellate courts. The information transmitted to CMIS by each of the appellate courts relates to every stage of an appeal, from the lodging of the case to its final disposition. The information is used to analyze performance relative to time standards of the Louisiana Circuit Courts of Appeal, to analyze the workload at each appellate court, and to provide information to support the courts' efforts to improve those aspects of the administration of justice identified in the Courts of Appeal strategic plan. Additionally, caseload statistics are reported to the National Center for State Courts, as a part of its Court Statistics Project, and aggregated for presentation in the Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court.

## THE DISTRICT COURT REPORTING SYSTEM

The District Court Reporting System stores information from each of the trial courts on civil, domestic, criminal, traffic, and juvenile cases. Trial courts submit their information monthly via a secure website, [www.lajudicial.gov](http://www.lajudicial.gov). The website offers clerks of court immediate access to current year-to-date caseload information. Out of sixty-four parishes statewide, fifty-eight have registered and are using the website to submit their caseload data. The remaining six parishes send in manual forms and CMIS staff enters the information into the database for them. Filing data from the courts is aggregated and reported to the National Center for State Courts, as a part of its Court



Statistics Project, and for presentation in the Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court.

## **THE JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT REPORTING SYSTEM**

The Juvenile and Family Court Reporting System holds information reported to the Louisiana Supreme Court from the four specialized juvenile courts and the one designated family court. Information is received relating to juvenile delinquency cases, juvenile traffic cases, adoption cases, child support cases, termination of parental rights cases, and Child in Need of Care cases. In addition, the one family court in the state submits data on family court filings by type of case.

The juvenile court data includes information on formal and informal case processes, dispositions, and other case types and outcomes. The data, derived from the forms submitted monthly by each court, is entered into a database by CMIS staff, aggregated by year, and reported in the Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court. The Louisiana Supreme Court is currently working to automate juvenile court reporting through its Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System.

## **THE PARISH AND CITY COURT REPORTING SYSTEM**

The Parish and City Court Reporting System contains case information reported to the Supreme Court from each city and parish court. The system receives information related to the number of civil, criminal, traffic, and juvenile cases filed and terminated in each calendar year. CMIS staff members enter the data, derived from the manual forms submitted by each court, into a database. Filing data from the courts is aggregated and presented in the Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court.



# UNIFORM REPORTING STANDARDS

The data standards upon which the completed systems have been built and the source of the standards guiding the development of future systems are indicated below:

System	Basis of Standards
• Clerk of Court Case Management Information System	• Local Courts; State; National Center for State Courts
• CMIS Criminal Disposition Data System	• National Crime Information Center; State
• The Louisiana Protective Order Registry	• National Crime Information Center; State
• The Drug Court Case Management System	• Supreme Court Drug Court Office
• The Traffic Violation System	• State
• The Court of Appeal Reporting System	• National Center for State Courts
• The Trial Court Reporting System	• National Center for State Courts
• The Juvenile and Family Court Reporting System	• National Center for State Courts; State
• The Parish and City Court Reporting System	• National Center for State Courts
• The Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System	• Louisiana Children’s Code; State

## BARRIERS TO DATA GATHERING AND DEVELOPMENT

Barriers to data gathering and the development of data systems include a decentralized court system with independent decision making authority, a lack of funding in general and lack of uniform funding for record keeping in particular, and a lack of standards implementation. These barriers exist within the court system as well as among courts and their justice system partners.

The court system in Louisiana is decentralized, involving approximately 755 elected judges and justices of the peace spread over five layers of courts – the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, district courts, parish and city courts, and justice of the peace courts. It also involves 42 elected district attorneys, 67 elected clerks of court, 64 elected sheriffs, 64 elected coroners, 387 elected constables serving the justices of the peace, 47 elected city court marshals or constables, and approximately 250 mayors or their designees managing mayors’ courts – all of whom exercise individual, independent authority. In addition, every election has the potential for significant staff turnover in courts as well as justice partner agencies. Depending on the intensity of competition in an election, the staff turnover can occur with little to no transition assistance, resulting in the need for significant re-investment in training and the establishment of effective working relationships.





The varied financial arrangements in place to support judicial branch operations also impact data gathering and information systems development. Although the Louisiana State Legislature appropriates funds to defray the expenses of the Louisiana Judiciary, with few exceptions no funds are appropriated for record keeping and general court operations below the circuit court level. Local governments are required to carry a major portion of the burden of funding the trial courts, the district attorneys, and the coroners. Citizens are also required to pay fees, fines, court costs, and assessments to help pay for the costs of judicial branch functions. These arrangements create a situation of “rich” and “poor” jurisdictions and offices, and they can force entities that should work together to compete with one another for limited resources. In addition, the state as whole is suffering from the lack of available funding to provide for government operations. This lack of funds affects the courts at every level as well as partner justice agencies.

The decentralized court structure and lack of resources for justice entities significantly affect the Louisiana Supreme Court’s ability to gather data, to achieve coordination and collaboration within the system, and to use data as a means of improving the administration of justice.

A related barrier exists relative to the use of data currently available – that of the lack of implementation of data standards, both within courts and among courts and their justice system partners. Standardization of data collection and reporting is essential to producing meaningful indicators on the performance of the judicial branch. However, each court operates autonomously. While this independence gives each court an important degree of flexibility, it can also present challenges to the use of uniform standards, which in turn limits the uses for which available data can be used.

Outside agencies present another standardization challenge to the courts in collecting meaningful data. Very few standards exist relating to what information needs to be shared with courts and other justice entities during the course of each case. This lack of standard data collection procedures may often result in missing or inaccurate case data.

Despite these barriers and a deficit in financial, staffing, and technological resources throughout the state, courts and their justice system partners continue to work together to achieve progress in data gathering and information systems development. The Louisiana Supreme Court continues to strive toward standardization by working with all levels of court as well as outside agencies in the data gathering process.

At the district court level, most courts use standards that the Supreme Court created for criminal case data collection. The Louisiana Supreme Court has also developed a traffic case data standard that is used by most district and some city courts. A standard for reporting caseloads for all categories has been in use by all levels of court for many years, and Louisiana Supreme Court staff members continue to train court and clerk of court personnel on the standards. The Louisiana Supreme Court believes that its capacity to promote, support, and make use of information related to judicial performance will continue to improve.

