Decision Support System - Justice Data Warehouse

Multnomah County's Decision Support System - Justice (DSSJ) is a computer system that combines criminal justice information from major local public safety agencies, including police, sheriff, prosecution, Circuit Court, and parole and probation. The DSSJ system, commonly known as a data warehouse, serves as a common database for criminal justice information where person information may be linked across agencies, providing public safety information in a timely and effective manner. Because DSSJ is a central repository for criminal justice system information, it provides policy makers and analysts with tools essential for data-driven and evidence based decision making.

DSSJ allows public safety agency users to create reports tracking events in the Multnomah County public safety system, such as calls to 911, reported criminal incidents, arrests, case prosecution, sentencing, supervision and criminal history. County public safety analysts use DSSJ data to inform program design and performance, inform policy making and measure public safety agency outputs and performance.

Stakeholder Groups and Key Decision Makers served by DSS-J:
- Law enforcement
- Pretrial Officers
- Victim Advocates
- Prosecutors
- Defense Attorneys
- Jail Administrators
- Court Administrators
- Judges
- Probation Parole Officers
- County Commission, Management and Auditor
- Local, State, and Federal Legislators
- Community Partners and Service Providers
- Researchers and Universities

Governance and Administration:

Multnomah County's Board of Commissioners and public safety officials obtained voter approval in 1996 for a $7.5 million bond to improve information technology and data sharing among the county's law enforcement and public safety agencies. Funds from this bond were used to fund the development of DSSJ. Over the past decade, funding for DSSJ's operation has been shared by partner agencies. In its FY2010 adopted budget, Multnomah County's Board of Commissioners transferred responsibility for the administration of DSSJ to the County's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC).

The DSSJ Policy Committee, consisting of representatives of LPSCC member agencies, oversees the direction and development of DSSJ operations. The DSSJ Policy Committee maintains a Strategic Action Plan that serves to identify and prioritize strategies that will improve the administration and operation of DSSJ and to ensure the realization of the system's full potential. In addition to the Policy Committee, a DSSJ Security Committee serves to ensure security of data contained in DSSJ and to advise the Policy Committee regarding access to system data.

Agencies represented on DSS-J Policy Committee:
- Multnomah County Commission
- Multnomah County District Attorney
- Department of Community Justice
- Portland Police
- Gresham Police
- Multnomah County Sheriff
- Oregon Judicial Department, Multnomah Circuit Court
- Department of County Assets, Information Technology
- Public Defender (retired)

DSS-J Informs Evidence-Based Knowledge:

DSSJ permits users to track persons, criminal cases, and events across county criminal justice agencies. As such, DSSJ provides access to information in a timely manner that otherwise would not be available or would be cost-prohibitive to collect and link. In its 2010 10-Year Report, cited examples of these research projects, reporting tools, and policy decisions. The following paragraphs detail a sample of the projects and policy decisions informed by data and analysis from DSS-J, over the past decade. The projects detailed below and are organized by key decision point and stakeholder agency. It is important to note that **this is a small selection from the many projects that DSSJ has supported** over the past 10 years.

Intervention and Arrest Decisions:

- County arrest reports detail arrest information by charge and agency, providing a broad view of law enforcement response across Multnomah County. Prior to the creation of this report, arrest activity reporting was agency specific, and required manual linking to describe county wide trends in arrest.

Pretrial Status Decisions:

- Failure to Appear and Set-over reports use court data to provide Recognizance and Pretrial Release officers with person level appearance information on all active Multnomah court cases. Prior to the creation of this report, release officers would manually look up court appearance information on a case by case basis.

Charging, Plea, and Sentencing Decisions:

- Sentencing support and condition reports provide Judges, Prosecutors, and Defense with information about previous sentencing of similar cohorts of defendants and the performance of those cohorts for each condition. This report allows for consistency in sentencing of offenders and informs smart sentencing practices.
- State Corrections Identifier information is matched to Circuit Court case records to provide additional defendant identifier information for Judges, Prosecutors and Defense. State Identifier information is not always available in the Oregon Judicial Information system and DSS-J ability to link person information across agencies reduces the need for Court staff and Attorneys to manually look up this information.

Custody, Release, and Corrections Health Decisions:

- Pretrial custody reports provide Judges, Prosecutors, Defense, and Jail Administrators with information for persons housed in jail for over 90 days. This report allows Judges, Court staff and Attorneys to identify cases that may be prioritized for release hearings, trial, or sentencing.

Community Supervision and Violation Response Decisions:

- Post Prison and Probation population report provides Multnomah County policy makers, DCJ management and Jail administrators with information relating to the number of offenders housed in jail relating to Post Prison and Probation violations. This report provides managers and policy makers with timely information relating to the management of County Jail resources and the impact of programs to target use of custodial sanctions for Post Prison and Probation violations.
- Bench Probation alerts provide judges with notification when persons on active bench probation have new law enforcement contact. Prior to the creation of this report, Judges and Judicial Assistants would manually calculate bench probation sentence end dates and individually look up arrest information on a case by case basis.
- Reconviction and rearrest reports allow researchers and managers to perform recidivism analysis for offenders participating in treatment programs and evidenced based sanction programs. This report allows for timely reporting of performance measures and is used by DCJ for budgeting and contract compliance monitoring. Prior to the creation of this report, researchers relied on small size samples of program cohort data, and performed manual case and rearrest data lookup.

Implications for Decision Makers and Criminal Justice System Knowledge:

Multnomah County's commitment to using the data in DSS-J to monitor program performance, conduct evaluations, and inform policy discussions represents a fundamental principle of evidence based decision making. The strategic use of DSS-J by County policy makers continues to produce innovative solutions to systemic challenges in public safety. These challenges include, sharing person identifier information, criminal case status and supervision information, and longitudinal tracking of events and resource use across public safety agencies.

Multnomah County's Decision Support System – Justice represents an important investment in the way Multnomah County's public safety system collects and uses data. Through the guidance of LPSCC's Executive Committee, DSS-J continues to ensure the availability of accurate and relevant public safety agency data for local policy makers and analysts. ■