



## Michael D. Schrunk, District Attorney

1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 600  
Portland, OR 97204-1193  
Phone: 503-988-3162 Fax: 503-988-3643  
[www.mcda.us](http://www.mcda.us)

### MEMORANDUM

---

**To:** Matt O'Keefe, LPSCC Staff Assistant

**From:** Michael D. Schrunk, District Attorney

**Date:** March 25, 2011

**Subject:** LPSCC Public Safety Brief and Analysis of topics for 2011

---

The first question asked is whether the statistics that appear in the brief are accurate for our agency. I believe they come from CRIMES and after checking our own issuing statistics report against the LPSCC figures, the two seem to align.

However, I do believe the analysis could be expanded. For instance, the second graph demonstrates that over the last 8 months the percentage of cases dismissed has declined dramatically (from about 35% to less than 20%) while the percentage of cases resolved by guilty plea has increased dramatically (from 50% to about 70%). This would appear to be a significant change that calls for an explanation to a person unfamiliar with the system. The answer is that in issuing more misdemeanor cases as violations we have eliminated the largest pool of low-level cases that are typically dismissed as part of global plea deals. Lowering the number of cases that typically are dismissed in plea negotiations increases the percentage of cases that plead guilty as crimes. Whether they are missing this or just not reporting it, it is valuable information to include.

The second question asks if there is more information that would better reflect our office's work load. Of course, these statistics, as barebones as they are regarding the initial processing of criminal cases, do not reflect the significant work done in our office in other areas. All juvenile cases, dependencies, SED work and probation violation work is not recorded here. How LPSCC would obtain these statistics is unclear to me, however, with the exception of PVs they are not available in Adult CRIMES, and I do not know how that could be obtained by using OJIN.

The next question asks if there are specific areas of the public safety system that could benefit from the additional statistical analysis. I believe that three areas stand out—pretrial release performance, court system processing efficiency, and parole and probation performance. These are areas of intense study by federal criminal analysts in the Bureau of Justice Statistics, indicating the general value experts place on this area.

- Regarding pretrial release, the failure rate of defendants (FTAs plus arrests for new crime while on release) should be included because it will tell us how our system is functioning. Significant new policies have been introduced in the last few years in this area, including telephone notification of defendants and the suppression of recognizance overrides by the recognizance office. Failure rate statistics will allow us to see how

those policies have worked. The total number of bench warrants is also indicative of how well our pretrial release system is working.

- The court system is often analyzed using statistics on processing time. Understanding case processing time is critical to understanding how efficiently the system is operating. Repeated setovers and delays in the court system will tax all components of the system, wasting jail resources and increasing attorney caseloads, and requiring additional court resources. An analysis of case processing time and average number of case setovers would assist in understanding how well the system is working.
- Finally, regarding parole and probation supervision, the Oregon Department of Corrections maintains an extensive data base that tracks the performance of all local parole and probation departments in the state. These statistics evaluate performance over a range of areas, from recidivism of parolees and probationers to employment and treatment. These statistics are readily available and would be easy to include in the brief. Their use would be extremely informative for anyone who wanted to examine that part of our system and compare the effectiveness of different agencies.

The final question asks about what system problems should be addressed in the next 6-12 months. I believe that the above list would be a good start.