

# DATA-DRIVEN JUSTICE

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS



Data Driven Justice (DDJ) is a project of the National Association of Counties that supports local jurisdictions in using data to better align resources to respond to people in crisis, particularly those who are frequent utilizers of justice, health and human services systems. This brief is one in a series outlining different roles and duties in establishing and maintaining DDJ in communities as outlined in the [Data Driven Justice Playbook](#).

This brief is for **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS**

**PROFESSIONALS** - positions that serve as the face of the justice system and are often called to respond to the needs of people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in the community and in jail. Law enforcement and corrections professionals like sheriffs, jail personnel and police officers and chiefs play a vital role in the implementation of innovative justice interventions. Below are some ways that law enforcement and corrections professionals can support your community's Data-Driven Justice efforts.



### BUILDING STAKEHOLDER CONSENSUS

- Attend and actively participate in regularly scheduled stakeholder meetings.
- Contribute to the development of a shared vision for improving outcomes for frequent utilizers.

### UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE YOU HOPE TO SERVE

- Review available jail, arrest and other data such as those from co-responder teams or 911 dispatch to compile a list of who you would consider to be frequent utilizers and their patterns of service usage. These data will likely come from multiple systems.
- Identify and share the key characteristics of the frequent utilizers you have identified to develop a common definition of frequent utilizers across systems.
- Collaborate with partners to create definitions of race across systems to better track and report on racial disparities.\*

“Everybody suffers from the system as it stands. Our health care providers suffer from the costs they’re incurring. Our taxpayers suffer. Our community suffers, because these are people who are chronically impacting the quality of life. But most importantly, these individuals are suffering. They don’t want to live like this. They want to be fulfilled. They want to live life like the rest of us are doing.”

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Middlesex County, Mass.

- Adopt strategies and policies that reinforce the importance of community engagement in managing public safety (e.g., requiring CIT training and engaging with people who have lived experience of the criminal justice system).

## **ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR DATA GOVERNANCE**

- Sign agreements (e.g., MOUs) to formalize relationships with other community stakeholders.
- Work with cross-sector partners to create a standard release of information form to help with sharing individual client information.

## **CONDUCT A RESOURCE SCAN AND IDENTIFY GAPS IN SERVICES AND TREATMENT**

- Offer access to your data systems to support the integration of data across multiple systems, gaining a better understanding of where service gaps and pressure points exist.
- Participate in your community's systems mapping exercise (e.g., Sequential Intercept Mapping) to help identify availability and gaps in services, resources and processes.

## **BUILD CONTINUAL DATA USE AND INFORMATION SHARING INTO CROSS-SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS AND POLICY DISCUSSIONS**

- Continually review and share data to identify and track frequent utilizers of systems.
- Engage with mayors, city councils and county commissions, as well as behavioral health leaders, to explore policy reform and funding for data integration and treatment and services for frequent utilizers.
- Engage researchers to operationalize crisis interventions and measure their success in terms of implementation and outcomes.
- Participate in opportunities to educate the public and leaders on current law enforcement and behavioral health issues and support effective policies and ordinances.
- Establish collaborative relationships with cross-sector working groups and engage in local criminal justice task forces and/or subcommittees focused on serving people with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders.
- Look for opportunities, such as conferences and panel presentations, where your community's work can be featured and highlighted.

This issue brief was created with support from Arnold Ventures as part of Data-Driven Justice, a project that aims to support local jurisdictions in using data to better align resources to respond to people who are frequent utilizers of justice, health and human services systems. For additional resources on implementing Data Driven Justice (DDJ), please refer to the [Data Driven Justice Website](#).

\* For strategies and best practices on how to center racial equity in data integration efforts, see Center for Policing Equity's report [Collecting, Analysing and Responding to Stop Data](#).