

The Citizen Open Data Access (CODA) Project: Using Public Data for the Public Interest



The Chicago Justice Project (CJP) facilitates access to public data from the criminal justice system. Information from policing organizations, courts, corrections agencies, prosecutorial and oversight agencies helps citizens understand and improve the good work performed by law enforcement agencies.

With its Citizen Open Data Access (CODA) project, CJP uses the latest online technologies to compile information in a meaningful way. This helps stakeholders in the criminal justice system begin to recognize the interdependencies of various agencies. Often, information is otherwise lost in the overwhelming volumes of data maintained by these organizations.

Through focus groups and in-depth interviews, CJP created a list of inputs that community advocates, lawyers and policy makers use to evaluate and promote public safety. These individuals engage the criminal justice system through paper public records, electronic systems, human intervention, and third-party providers. While discretion is essential to how these records are managed, when limitations are imposed for access, the public interest is often compromised. CJP intends to evaluate these data sets, identify how they are stored, and seek opportunities to make data sharing across the diverse operational agencies of the criminal justice system more efficient.

With better knowledge of what information is currently under review, CJP can improve opportunities to use this data in a meaningful way and provide community members with better insight into the achievements of their public safety systems.

The CODA project will identify streams of relevant data that could be standardized across agencies while retaining the integrity of local jurisdictions. Coding for racial, ethnic, and additional attributes will enable cases to be tracked across currently siloed government agencies. From arrest to dismissal or incarceration, CODA seeks to protect individual information and surface patterns of systemic problems in need of adjustment.

CJP seeks to include data from the following sources:

Policing Agencies

- Chicago Police Department
- Cook County Sheriff's Office

Courts

- Cook County Civil Court
- Cook County Criminal Court
- Illinois State Appellate Court
- Illinois Supreme Court
- Federal Civil Court
- Federal Criminal Court
- Federal Appellate Court
- United States Supreme Court

Prosecutorial Agencies

- Cook County State's Attorney's Office

Correctional Institutions

- Cook County Jail
- Illinois Department of Corrections

Oversight Agencies

- Chicago Police Board
- Independent Police Review Authority

Understanding the Whole System

CJP will compile data from all the levels of the criminal justice system in Chicago and Cook County as they become available. The level of technology advancement within the agency will impact how rapidly data from agencies can be made available in our CODA Project.

Recognizing the Information Management Challenge

The use of technology within the criminal justice system in Chicago and Cook County varies from agency to agency, making it imperative that CJP be prepared to incorporate data in a variety of different formats for use in our CODA Project. CJP is preparing to incorporate data from a number of data formats, including:

Paper Records

CJP will digitize paper records so that they may be sorted and accessed efficiently, scanning each record so that text may be searched by keyword.

Digital Records

CJP will incorporate the growing number of digital records into our CODA Project in two ways: on disc and through exportable data feeds. Data received from the agencies on disc will be standardized and then imported into the CODA database, while data collected through exportable data feeds and application programming interfaces (APIs) will be imported into the database through efficient and timely automated processes.



Piecing Together the Full Data Picture

Data integration will allow CJP to provide a holistic view of the criminal justice system. For example, the path from the filing of a complaint with a policing agency through conclusion of a served sentence cannot be traced today with available resources. CJP will be seeking to include data that informs the public about decisions that are made by agents of the criminal justice system at every level, including demographic information from everyone that plays a role in the handling of a complaint, arrest, prosecution, and adjudication.

As example, the following pages follow hypothetical data points from offense through incarceration.

Police Data Points INFORMATION



OFFENSE DATA

Offense Type Aggravated battery
 Offense Date 1-Dec-08
 Offense Narrative Victim reports that Anthony Calabrese argued with him about a parking spot and then struck him several times with a bat.
 Offense Location 35 E. Wacker Drive
 Community Area # of Complaint 32
 Beat of Offense 0122
 District of Offense 1st



VICTIM

Age 22
 Race Hispanic
 Ethnicity Mexican
 Gender Male
 First Name Julio
 Last Name Rodriguez



SUSPECT

Age 19
 Race Caucasian
 Ethnicity Italian
 Gender Male
 First Name Anthony
 Last Name Calabrese



INVESTIGATING DETECTIVE

Age 39
 Race African American
 Ethnicity Haitian
 Gender Male
 First Name Alex
 Last Name Romero
 Detective Area Area 1
 Detective Assignment Violent Crimes

Police Data Points

INFORMATION



ARREST DATA



ARRESTING OFFICER

Age.....	32
Race.....	Caucasian
Ethnicity.....	Irish
Gender.....	Female
First Name.....	Lisa
Last Name.....	Smith
Arrest Narrative.....	Individual was arrested pursuant to a signed complaint for Aggravated Battery
Arresting Officer Beat Number.....	1510
Arresting Officer Unit.....	Patrol
District of Arrest.....	15th
Beat of Arrest.....	1510
Address of Arrest.....	5701 W. Madison Ave.
Community Area # of Arrest.....	25
Date of Arrest.....	1-Jan-09
Time of Arrest.....	11:51 PM
Original Location of Hold.....	15th District
Additional Hold Locations.....	Area 1
Additional Hold Locations.....	35th & Michigan
Additional Hold Locations.....	N/A
Date of Approval of Charges.....	1/2/09
Time of Approval of Charges.....	3:30 AM
Charges.....	Felony Aggravated Battery
Date of First Court Appearance.....	3-Jan-09
Time of First Court Appearance.....	10:00 AM
Branch of First Court Appearance.....	25
Released without charging.....	N/A
Releases for not charging.....	N/A
Reason charges were not filed.....	N/A
Date of Release.....	N/A
Time of Release.....	N/A

DATA POINTS FROM POLICE AGENCIES

Victim Demographics
 Victim Identifiers
 Suspect Demographics
 Suspect Identifiers
 Arresting Officer Demographics
 Arresting Officer Identifiers
 Arresting Officer Beat Number
 Arresting Officer Unit
 District of Arrest

Time of Arrest
 Location(s) of Hold
 Length of Hold
 Date of First Court Appearance
 Time of First Court Appearance
 Complaint Information
 Charges
 Demographics for all police

Officers involved in decision process for case
 Identifiers for all police officers involved in decision process for case
 Reason charges were not filed
 Date of Release
 Time of Release

Prosecutor Data Points

INFORMATION



FELONY REVIEW STATE'S ATTORNEY (APPROVED CHARGES)

Age 29
 Race Asian
 Ethnicity Chinese
 Gender Female
 First Name Kim
 Last Name Han



PROSECUTING STATE'S ATTORNEY

Age 43
 Race Hispanic
 Ethnicity Columbian
 Gender Male
 First Name Alex
 Last Name Rios

Why charges were filed Eyewitness testimony matching victim account, weapon found in possession of suspect with his fingerprints on it

Why charges were not filed N/A
 Existence of DNA Evidence N/A
 Plea Bargain Offered Yes
 Plea Bargain Accepted No
 Plea Bargain Description 2 years plus 36 months parole

DATA POINTS FROM THE PROSECUTION

- Prosecutor(s) Demographics
- Prosecutor(s) Identifiers
- Why charges were filed
- Why charges were not filed
- Plea Bargains

Court Data Points

INFORMATION



Bond Approved Yes
 Bond Changes N/A



BOND COURT JUDGE

Age 54
 Race Caucasian
 Ethnicity German
 Gender Male
 First Name Michael
 Last Name Schmidt
 Suspect Posted Bail No
 Criminal Court Branch 01
 Judge Position Associate



JUDGE

Age 54
 Race Caucasian
 Ethnicity English
 Gender Male
 First Name Michael
 Last Name Lennon

Date of Court Appearances
 Status 24-Feb-09
 Status 1-Jul-09
 Status 12-Oct-09
 Trial Start 15-Dec-09
 Trial N/A
 Trial Completion 15-Dec-09
 Judge / Jury Trial Jury
 Public Defender / Private Counsel Public Defender



PUBLIC DEFENDER

Age 33
 Race African American
 Ethnicity South African
 Gender Female
 First Name Leshia
 Last Name Williams
 Verdict Guilty
 Date of Sentencing 1-Feb-10
 Sentence 3 Years

DOCUMENTS FROM COURTS

- Indictments
- Motions
- Judicial Orders
- Judicial Decision
- Jury Verdicts
- Medical Reports
- Scientific Test Results / Reports
- Depositions
(Criminal capital cases)
- Trial Transcripts
- Reports from Expert Witnesses
- Complaints

- Answers to Complaints
- Interrogatories
- Answers to Interrogatories
- Settlements
- Appellate Appeals
- Appellate Appeal Response
- Appellate Transcripts
- Appellate Ruling
- Supreme Court Appeal
- Supreme Court Transcripts
- Supreme Court Decisions
- Supreme Court Appeal Response

DATA POINTS FROM COURTS

- Type of Court (Criminal vs. Civil)
- Court Level (Federal vs. State)
- Defendant Demographics
- Defendant Identifiers
- Judge Demographics
- Judge Identifiers
- Dates of All Court Appearances
- Judge / Jury Trial
- Defense Council Demographics
- Defense Council Identifiers
- Plaintiff Council Demographics
- Plaintiff Council Identifiers
- Final Disposition

Correctional Institution Data Points

INFORMATION



INCARCERATION DATA



Date of Entry	5-Feb-10
Location of Incarceration	Joliet Correctional Facility
Additional Locations of Incarceration	Pontiac Correctional Center
Release Date.	29-Jun-11
Date of Entry to Community Corrections	29-Jun-11
Date of Release from Community Corrections	12-Jul-12
Violations of Community Correction Requirements	0
Violations of Incarceration Institution Rules	0

CHICAGO POLICE BOARD

- Complaints filed with Board from Police Superintendent
- Dates of Hearings
- Demographics of Defendant Officers
- Identifiers of Defendant Officers
- Unit of Defendant Officers
- Beat of Defendant Officers
- District of Defendant Officers

- Defense Council Demographics
- Defense Council Identifiers
- Plaintiff Council Demographics
- Plaintiff Council Identifiers
- Demographics of Hearing Officers
- Identifiers of Hearing Officers
- Final Decision of Board
- Votes for individual board members
- Transcripts of Proceedings

INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW AUTHORITY

- Summaries of Investigations
- Demographics of Officers Under Investigation
- Location of Incident
- Beat of Officer Involved

- Unit of Officer Involved
- District of Officer Involved
- Demographics of Investigators
- Identifiers of Investigators
- Demographics of Complainants

Data Access

CJP ardently supports the Illinois Freedom of Information Act and frequently uses it. However, many factors have diminished the effectiveness of this law in recent years. CJP believes future litigation will set new standards for the public availability of government records. Legal action may be necessary to include additional documentation in the database. Our mission is to keep the public domain accessible to the public.

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