

Overview

This project focuses on identifying data elements for each case type that should/could be collected by OCA. The objective is to collect more detailed information on cases that would help support decision making related to planning, policy, and budgets for the judiciary, and other policy makers.

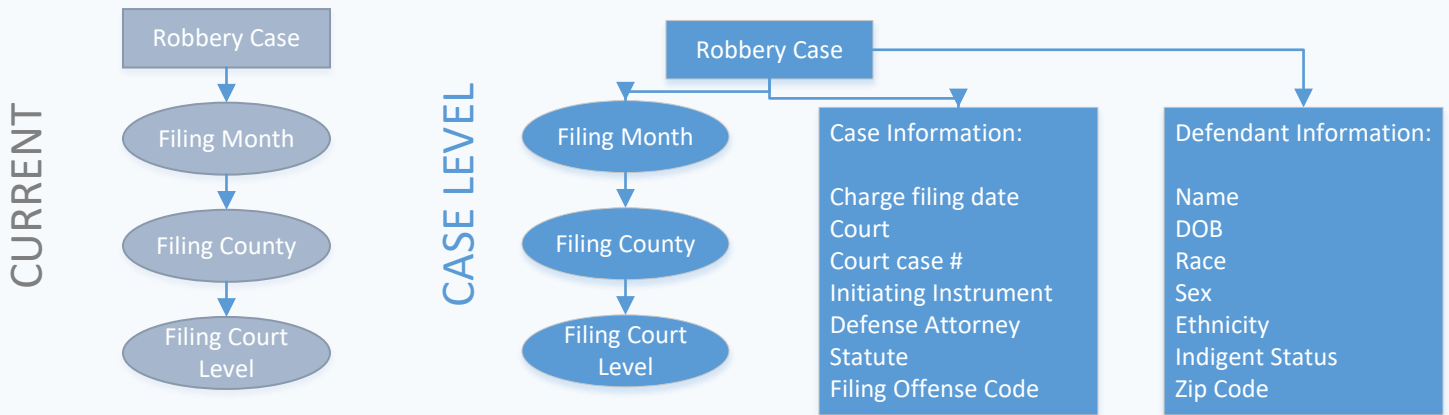
At the moment, the data collected is predominantly filings and dispositions in aggregate counts by county, and in some instances by court depending on the court and county. Case details are not being captured, making it difficult to assess more granular issues and information requests. The new system will be a vendor-hosted, cloud-based system that will collect case-level data. Automated Programming Interfaces (APIs) will be used to allow each court to report data in near real-time. Additionally, OCA staff will be given a business intelligence platform to manipulate the data to answer policy questions posed by the Judicial Council and the Legislature.

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) developed National Open Data Standards (NODS) to serve as a model data standard to develop standardized reporting. The objectives are to make case-level data available to policymakers, researchers, media, and public, provide transparency in court operations, and reduce burden on judicial system staff responding to data requests and inquiries.

This model is intended to serve as a starting point/template for states, so that each state can decide for itself what to collect, and what not to collect.

Data Collection Current/Proposed

Below is a **case filing** example of what is currently being collected, compared to what could be collected under case-level data. *Detail of what could be captured in case-level data is not all-inclusive, this is a brief example.



Project Update

Assess difficulty for data elements collection:

During the initial review of the case-level data elements, each data element was assigned a level of difficulty related to the ease of capture. The difficulty measurement scale is Easy, Medium, and Hard.

Some of the factors considered when determining the difficulty to capture each data element was whether the data point is already being captured in local case management systems, and how it is being captured.

Review & Data Element Collection Proposals:

During the review, the project team noted recommendations on whether a data element should be required to be collected (critical), could be optional, or not collected at all.

Current Tasks:

After a second in-depth review of the criminal data elements, which included assessing how difficult it would be to capture each element, and developing proposals on whether a data element should be collected or not, the following tasks are in progress:

- Define Acceptable Standardized Values
- Statutorily Required Reporting
 - Conduct a final review identifying data elements that will satisfy current statutorily required reporting requirements.
 - Identify reporting requirements that will not be satisfied by case level data reporting.
 - Identify what statutory/rule changes will be necessary to collect, share, protect certain type of data. Case-level data will capture greater detail and some confidential information that will require changes to conserve and protect confidentiality.

Timeline

Due to the nature, scope, and volume of data involved, this project will be a long-term undertaking. Factors to consider when assessing project completion time include, but are not limited to:

- Staff time and resources to complete in depth review of data elements.
- Development of data definitions and documentation, training and technical assistance resources; and query and reports design.
- Leadership approval and review of statutory/rule changes.
- Funding: for system and staff.
- Vendor selection.
- System design/architecture.
- Data governance plan development and implementation.
- Testing phase.
- Pilot group trial and system integration set-up.
- Maintenance and staff support of current system (CARD) until all data is collected in new system.

Funding and Staff Resources/Needs

OCA submitted an Exceptional Item Request for \$4,000,000 in FY24 and \$2,000,000 ongoing maintenance costs beginning in FY25. These costs will cover the cloud-based system, staff compensation, project management and other implementation costs.

As the project develops, we anticipate an increase in staffing needs, dedicated data analysis, statistical analysis, technical implementation, and customer support. A successful statewide implementation will require other staff to work on data integrity to ensure correct and accurate data is transmitted. OCA also anticipates the development of dynamic and on-demand data dashboards to improve with data visualization and ease of running reports.

Other States

OCA has met with the states of Illinois and Nevada, who are going through a similar project. These states are at different phases of their project but still in the beginning stages. OCA has heard of similar challenges from Georgia through NODS meetings hosted by the NCSC. Georgia is in the process of verifying the various case management systems across their state to ensure data can be collected in a uniformed manner.

Observations/difficulties encountered from other states:

- Evaluation of different case management systems (CMS) across their state.
- Assessment of staff needs, current and future as project involvement increases.
- Assessment of system design and potential integration with court CMSs.