

Prosecution Strategies

District Attorneys' (DA) offices across Colorado are using data dashboards to better understand and implement strategies to address case outcomes. This two-pager provides examples of how to review, interpret, and act on data in your jurisdiction.

How Can Data Help?

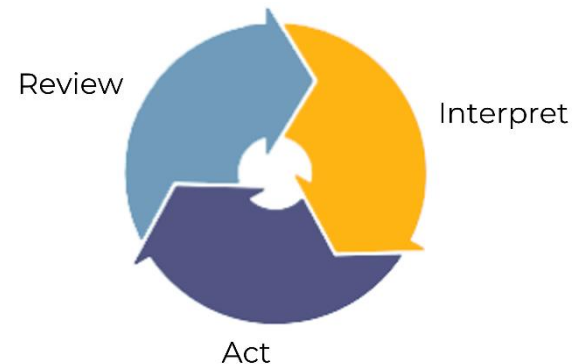
- Data dashboards can help you better understand patterns and outliers in case processes and outcomes.
- Data can help answer questions—from staff or from external partners—or examine “hunches” in more detail.
- To start, consider: What are your office priorities? What challenges is your office facing? What decisions do you have coming up?

Framework for Data Use

Review: What data points do we look at?

Interpret: What patterns do we notice?

Act: What do we do?



Example #1: Understand Trends in Case Filing

REVIEW

- Data can help you explore trends in **case filing**. For example, one office felt they were experiencing an uptick in domestic violence assault and wanted to better understand what was driving this trend.
- To investigate, look at the **Charging and Filing Page** and filter by **top charge** (in this example, attempted murder and first- and second-degree assault with a domestic violence indicator).
- Hit “Drill Up” to help smooth out quarter-to-quarter variation—and examine annual patterns.
- Add additional filters, such as **county**, **referral agency**, or **defendant characteristics**, to explore if and how this pattern differs.

INTERPRET

- By filtering the data, you can assess: Which **charge type(s)** are driving an increase in filing? **What agencies** are referring these charges? Do these cases involve **certain types of defendants**, such as males/females or individuals with/without a criminal history?
- **Have conversations** with different teams and partners to help make sense of these patterns.

ACT

- The office identified that the increase was being driven by second degree assault, with more referrals coming from specific law enforcement agencies. Defendants were disproportionately middle-age Hispanic individuals with no/limited criminal history.
- Through conversation, the office learned that their Domestic Violence High Impact Team had been **working closely with community partners** in specific geographic areas. One potential reason for the increase was their work to **train law enforcement agencies** in how to improve victim engagement and support Hispanic victims to **report domestic violence**.
- Identifying these trends can help offices **cultivate and strengthen partnerships** and **allocate resources** to support victims.

Example #2: Identify and Address Office Priorities

REVIEW

- Data can help you explore trends in **case outcomes**. For example, one office created a Domestic Violence Response Team and wanted to examine how to support the team in their goals of crisis intervention and prevention.
- To investigate, look at the **Case Resolution Page** and **Timeliness Page** and filter by **top charge** (in this example, the domestic violence indicator) to understand how cases have been disposed. Consider: **Are these the dispositions that you are aiming for?** How long is it taking to resolve these cases? How have these patterns changed over time?

INTERPRET

- Have **conversations** with different teams and groups to help **make sense of the patterns** you see. To what extent are outcomes being driven by: Changes in staffing? Courtroom practices? Facts of the case and victim cooperation?

ACT

- **Articulate your goals** and identify what type of **support or guidance** staff need.
- **Plea guidelines** can help support more consistent resolutions. In this example, the office used a “green sheet” to support DAs in completing a thorough and early review of the case, tracking required communication, and documenting offers made.
- To address timeliness, offices can create **timeline goals**, for example, making an offer within 35 days, and **notifying attorneys** when a case has been outstanding for over 120 days.

Example 3: Examine Consistency Across Courtrooms

REVIEW

- Data can help you identify the level of variability or consistency in **dispositions or sentences across courtrooms**. For example, one office used data to understand whether court divisions imposed similar sentences for felony DUIs.
- To investigate, go to the **Sentencing Page** and filter by **top charge** (in this example, felony DUI).
- Add additional filters—such as **year, county, or defendant characteristics** like criminal history—if you want to zoom in on a specific geographic area, time period, or population.
- Filter by **court division** to examine the types of sentences being imposed.

INTERPRET

- By viewing court divisions **one by one**, you can look for patterns.
- What types of sentences are being imposed? Are these consistent? Are there any outliers? **What might be contributing to any differences you see?** Staff turnover? Unclear guidance?
- Get input from staff working directly in the areas you’re examining.

ACT

- Emphasize the **importance of consistency and fairness** for similarly situated defendants within your office. Find out what support or guidance staff need.
- **Share with external partners**, such as courts, to start a conversation and get their input.

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You can learn more about the Colorado Prosecutorial Dashboards project on our [website](#), or contact Lauren Gase at lauren.gase@ucdenver.edu.