

# About US



## Partnering to Improve Justice Systems

**Bringing fresh perspective to juvenile and criminal justice research.** Criminal and juvenile justice in the United States today look vastly different than they did a decade ago. Years of declining crime rates, new bail and sentencing options, and evidence-based alternatives for juveniles and adults are just a few of the trends changing the face of our justice systems. There is also increased public support for making punishments more equitable, improving prison and jail conditions, and providing system-involved people with supports to improve their life outcomes. Yet public safety for all communities and security within prisons and jails, racial disparities in contact with the justice system, and identifying and scaling up programs that work still pose challenges.

### IDENTIFYING WHAT WORKS: WE CAN HELP

Mathematica's approach to research, evaluation, and technical assistance in the justice area leverages innovative methods and cross-cutting expertise to provide actionable information about the effectiveness of justice system interventions.

**Innovative methods.** Mathematica's staff include statisticians, implementation and data scientists, and interdisciplinary policy scholars armed with expertise in collecting and analyzing data to answer the questions policymakers and practitioners care about. We communicate these answers using straightforward language and visuals to facilitate broad understanding and provide clear next steps.

**Cross-cutting expertise.** We understand that the criminal and juvenile justice systems operate within the context of neighborhoods and communities. Those in the justice system are often simultaneously involved with health, education, workforce development, child welfare, and housing support systems. Our justice experts collaborate closely with our researchers in these related areas, providing our projects with deep understanding of these systems and how they integrate into the lives of justice-involved populations.

To find out more about partnering with Mathematica's justice team, please contact **Kevin Conway** at [kconway@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:kconway@mathematica-mpr.com) or **Johanna Lacoe** at [jlacoe@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:jlacoe@mathematica-mpr.com).

### Mathematica's experience can help you:

- **Identify** areas for justice system reform, pilot projects, and policy changes.
- **Develop** and deliver training and technical assistance targeted at state and local needs.
- **Support** locally driven enrollment, data collection, and performance measure systems and capabilities.
- **Assess** data quality and generate linked databases across multiple agencies.
- **Evaluate** the effectiveness of reforms, programs, and policy changes.
- **Communicate** findings to justice officials, policymakers, and partners.

## Identify areas for justice system reform, pilot projects, and policy changes.



- Interview state and local stakeholders to identify areas for improvement.
- Create an array of potential reform options for state or local jurisdictions based on evidence and local context.
- Develop reform models in collaboration with system stakeholders.
- Identify contexts with the greatest potential for reform.
- Contribute to ongoing improvement plans.

## Develop and deliver training and technical assistance targeted at state and local needs.



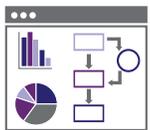
- Build capacity within agencies and organizations to collect and use data.
- Write user-friendly guides and process and procedure documents.
- Develop a plan for training and technical assistance.
- Deliver training via multiple channels (in-person, webinars, videos, and teleconferences).
- Provide ongoing support to state and local officials.
- Perform technical assistance during site visits, by phone, by email, and online.

## Support locally driven enrollment, data collection, and performance measure systems and capabilities.



- Leverage technical assistance and tools, such as **LI<sup>2</sup>**, to design an organization-driven evaluation.
- Give local agencies and organizations easy access to applications, such as **RAPTER**, to support random assignment, case management, and participant tracking.
- Use **rapid-cycle evaluation** tools to provide local decision makers with timely and actionable evidence of program progress and outcomes.

## Assess data quality and generate linked databases across multiple agencies.



- Review quality of available administrative data elements from justice system partners.
- Assess the potential for matching across data sources and employing various matching techniques.
- Link individual records across multiple data sources and generate standardized measures.
- Develop **dashboards** so system stakeholders can access live aggregated data.

## Evaluate the effectiveness of reforms, programs, and policy changes.



- Help administrators and stakeholders understand how to implement programs, policies, or interventions.
- Conduct impact studies of programs, policies, or interventions.
- Use network analyses to improve cross-agency collaboration or targeted service delivery.
- Analyze the spatial dynamics of crime to improve the effectiveness of prevention efforts.

## Communicate findings to justice officials, policymakers, and partners.



- Create compelling visual products to engage a wide range of audiences.
- Use multiple platforms to communicate results, including podcasts, stakeholder interviews, policy briefs, and social media.
- Directly engage policymakers by reporting findings to legislative bodies.

