



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics



State and Federal Corrections Information Systems

*An Inventory of Data Elements and
an Assessment of Reporting
Capabilities*

A joint project:

**Association of State Correctional Administrators
Corrections Program Office, OJP
Bureau of Justice Statistics
National Institute of Justice**



State and Federal Corrections Information Systems

An Inventory of Data Elements and an Assessment of Reporting Capabilities

A joint project:

**Association of State Correctional Administrators
Corrections Program Office, OJP
Bureau of Justice Statistics
National Institute of Justice**

August 1998, NCJ 170016

Supervising offenders on release and maintaining public safety

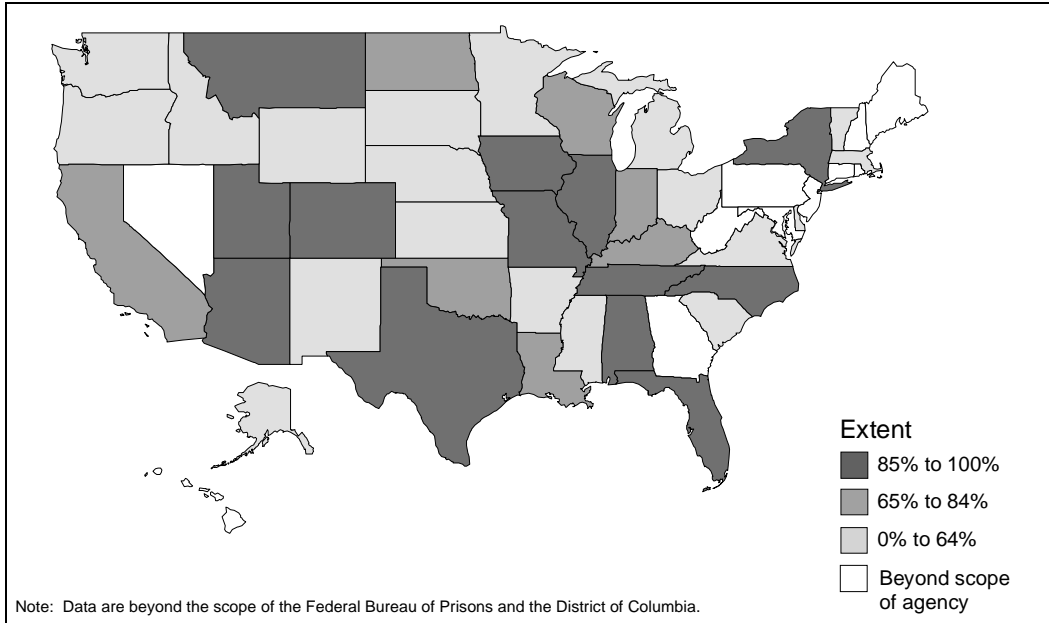


Figure 4. Extent to which departments maintain all core supervision data electronically for most offenders

Highlights	47
Social integration	48
Number of departments with data elements that describe—	
Table 4.1. employment and residence information	49
Offender behavior after release	49
Number of departments with data elements that describe—	
Table 4.2. behavior on supervision	50
Table 4.3. the response to violations of conditions of supervision	51
New crimes and victims of crimes	51
Number of departments with data elements that describe—	
Table 4.4. information about new crimes	52
Table 4.5. information about victims of new crimes	52
Summary	52

Data elements described in chapter 4 — supervising offenders on release

Dimension and data element

Employment and residence information

Offender had job
Type employment
Date employment began
If employer notified of offender record
Address of offender while on release
Residence status
Living arrangements

Behavior on supervision

Type of supervision
Termination of supervision
Actual length of supervision
Date completed supervision
Type technical violation
Type new crime committed
Administrative closure
Absconded on release
Date of technical violation
Date of new crime
Date of administrative closure
Date offender absconded

Response to violations of conditions of supervision

If offender arrested for violation/new crime
Violation/new crime adjudicated
Offender convicted of violation/new crime
Offender sentenced for violation/new crime
Date offender arrested
Date violation/new crime adjudicated
Date convicted for violation/new crime
Date sentenced for violation/new crime
Change of release status
Date offender returned to prison

Information about new crime

If offender under criminal supervision
Date of incident
Location of incident
Type of offense
Number of victims
If victim impact statement
Victim injury information
Extent of property damage
Amount of restitution due to victim

Information about victims of new crimes

Sex of victim
Race of victim
Age of victim
If victim was a child
If victim knew offender
Relationship to offender
Address of victim

Supervising offenders on release and maintaining public safety

Highlights

- Forty of the 52 departments maintain data about the behaviors of offenders released into the community; 12 do not.
- Thirty-eight of these departments record data on the reasons for termination of supervision; 32 report on the type of new crime committed by offenders under supervision; and 35 report data on when offenders return to prison after having been sentenced for a new crime. Most departments maintain this information electronically.
- For crimes committed by offenders under supervision, 35 departments have data on the type of crime, but no more than 16 have data about victim-related elements of these crimes, and fewer still maintain data on the characteristics of victims; for those that do, most maintain victim information in paper form.
- While 31 of 40 departments maintain data on the address of offenders released from prison, only 20 maintain data about released offenders' living arrangements and 17 about their employment; for many departments, this information is maintained on paper.
- Data describing reasons for terminating supervision and the criminal justice response to violations of conditions of supervision are more commonly collected by these 40 departments than other areas of supervising offenders.

The fourth stage of corrections processing in the Inventory relates to the supervision of offenders released from custody and the maintenance of public safety. The Inventory includes 45 data elements related to this stage. As with the second and third stages, this fourth stage is divided into broad categories which are then divided into dimensions. The data elements in this stage measure where offenders are in the community, what they are doing there, and whether they have a record of criminal activity after release. The data elements also address the behavior of offenders under supervision in the community, any new crimes committed, and the response to these crimes. Additional data elements focus on information about victims of crimes committed by offenders under supervision in the community.

These 45 data elements fall into three categories: social integration, offender behaviors after release from custody, and new crimes and victims of crimes. Social integration includes one dimension of data elements about offenders'

residence and employment status during release. The data elements about offender behaviors on release are organized into 3 dimensions:

- Residence and employment during release (7 data elements);
- Behaviors on supervision leading to reasons for terminating supervision (12 data elements); and
- Responses to new crimes and violations of conditions of supervision (10 data elements).

The other major category of elements relates to new crimes and victims of crimes. This category is organized into 2 dimensions:

- Details of new crimes committed on supervision (9 data elements); and
- Details about victims of crimes committed by offenders under supervision (7 data elements).

In the supervising offenders stage, at most 40 departments of correction use their adult sentenced prisoner information systems to maintain data on offenders while they are under supervision in the community:

- Forty departments in tables 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 reported having data about offenders under supervision; and
- Thirty-eight departments in tables 4.4 and 4.5 reported having detailed data about criminal incidents committed by released offenders.

Social integration

Relatively few of the 40 departments reporting that they maintain data elements about released offenders maintain the data elements on offenders employment experiences and residence on release (table 4.1). With the exception of the address of the offender, which is collected in a high-availability form* by 19 departments, most of the departments do not maintain the data elements that describe personal data about offenders on release.

*High-availability format is defined as maintaining data electronically for more than 75% of offenders.

Data element	Question- naire item number	In electronic format for—		In paper format	Have it in any format	Do not collect
		More than 75% of offenders	Less than 75% of offenders			
Offender had job	157	5	2	11	18	21
Type employment	158	5	3	9	17	22
Date employment began	159	4	2	7	13	25
If employer notified of offender record	160	3	1	7	11	27
Address of offender while on release	161	19	7	5	31	8
Residence status	162	0	2	7	9	30
Living arrangements	163	9	3	8	20	19

Note: Data elements with incomplete information are included in 'Have it in any format'. Totals of 'Have it in any format' and 'Do not collect' may not add up to 40 departments due to missing information about individual data elements.

Offender behavior after release

For the 40 departments that maintain data on offenders released into the community, a large percentage are able to report data in high-availability form. Most departments collect the key data elements on completion of release supervision in a high-availability form. Of the 40 departments reporting, 32 each have a high availability to produce data on type of supervision, on whether supervision was terminated, and on the date supervision was completed (table 4.2). Twenty-seven departments maintain high-availability data elements about whether an offender absconded while on release; 26 do so for the type of new crime that was committed; 25 departments maintain data elements on the length of supervision in high availability. More than a third of the departments collect data in a high-availability form on the type of technical violation, and on the dates related to the new crime or violation.

Data element	Question- naire item number	In electronic format for—		In paper format	Have it in any format	Do not collect
		More than 75% of offenders	Less than 75% of offenders			
Type of supervision ^a	164	32	2	3	37	3
Termination of supervision ^b	165	32	3	2	38	2
Actual length of supervision ^c	166	25	2	1	28	11
Date completed supervision ^b	167	32	2	1	36	2
Type technical violation	168	18	3	6	27	12
Type new crime committed ^{c,d}	169	26	2	4	32	7
Administrative closure	170	22	2	4	28	11
Absconded on release	171	27	5	4	36	4
Date of technical violation	172	20	3	7	30	10
Date of new crime ^c	173	19	2	6	27	12
Date of administrative closure	174	23	2	3	28	11
Date offender absconded	175	25	4	4	33	7

Note: Data elements with incomplete information are included in 'Have it in any format'. Totals of 'Have it in any format' and 'Do not collect' may not add up to 40 departments due to missing information about individual data elements.

^aOne department does not distinguish between parole and probation supervision.

^bOne department records this information only if the offender is reincarcerated for a new crime.

^cOne department can calculate this information from other data elements.

^dOne department records only felonies.

For the data elements related to the criminal justice response to new crimes and technical violations committed by offenders under supervision in the community, departments vary in their capacities to maintain information in electronic form. For the data elements that measure an offender's return to prison, such as date of return to prison, and whether an offender was sentenced, most of the departments (32 and 27, respectively) have high-availability data elements (table 4.3). Twenty-one of the departments maintain high-availability data elements on offenders arrested and subsequently adjudicated for crimes committed while on release. Most departments that report these data elements obtain their data when offenders return to prison (28 departments), but 18 obtain data on the new crimes committed by offenders on release when the offenders are convicted, and 10 departments report that they obtain this information when offenders are arrested (not shown in a table in this chapter).

Table 4.3. Number of departments with data elements that describe the response to violations of conditions of supervision

Data element	Questionnaire item number	In electronic format for—		In paper format	Have it in any format	Do not collect
		More than 75% of offenders	Less than 75% of offenders			
If offender arrested for violation/new crime ^a	176	21	2	3	26	12
Violation/new crime adjudicated ^{a,b}	177	18	2	5	25	13
Offender convicted of violation/new crime ^c	178	21	3	4	28	9
Offender sentenced for violation/new crime ^{b,c,d}	179	27	5	3	35	3
Date offender arrested ^c	180	15	1	6	22	16
Date violation/new crime adjudicated ^c	181	14	1	7	22	15
Date convicted for violation/new crime ^b	182	19	3	4	26	12
Date sentenced for violation/new crime ^{b,d}	183	23	3	4	30	9
Change of release status	184	28	3	3	34	6
Date offender returned to prison ^b	185	32	0	2	35	4

Note: Data elements with incomplete information are included in 'Have it in any format'. Totals of 'Have it in any format' and 'Do not collect' may not add up to 40 departments due to missing information about individual data elements.

^aOne department records felonies electronically; misdemeanors are recorded in paper format.

^bOne department records this information only for felonies.

^cOne department records this information only if the offender is reincarcerated for a new crime.

^dOne department records this information only for new crimes committed.

New crimes and victims of crimes

Although a relatively high number of departments can identify whether supervision terminated for reasons of a new crime (table 4.2), departments vary in their availability to maintain data elements that describe the new crimes committed by released offenders, the victims of the crimes, or the damages done by the offender (table 4.4). Of the 38 that report maintaining data elements about criminal incidents involving offenders under supervision, 31 departments report in a high-availability format the supervision status of the offender, and 27 departments report on the type of offense associated with the new crime. However, only 2 departments maintain high-availability data elements about the victims of these crimes. Six maintain the data elements for the location of the event, and 11 maintain data elements about victim restitution in electronic form for more than 75% of the offender population. Most of the departments do not maintain these elements (table 4.4).

Table 4.4. Number of departments with data elements that describe information about new crimes

Data element	Questionnaire item number	In electronic format for—		In paper format	Have it in any format	Do not collect
		More than 75% of offenders	Less than 75% of offenders			
If offender under criminal supervision*	201	31	4	2	38	0
Date of incident	186	16	4	10	31	7
Location of incident	187	6	1	14	21	17
Type of offense	188	27	2	6	35	3
Number of victims	189	5	2	9	16	22
If victim impact statement	190	2	1	12	15	23
Victim injury information	191	2	1	11	14	24
Extent of property damage	192	2	1	12	15	23
Amount of restitution due to victim	193	11	3	5	19	19

Note: Data elements with incomplete information are included in 'Have it in any format'. Totals of 'Have it in any format' and 'Do not collect' may not add up to 38 departments due to missing information about individual data elements.
*One department can not distinguish between different types of supervision.

Few departments collect detailed data in any form about victims in incidents committed by offenders on release. Thirteen report collecting data elements on the sex of the victim and whether the victim was a child; 16 maintain data on the victim's address. In addition, the comparatively few data elements about victims of crimes committed by offenders on release in the community are maintained primarily in paper format. For example, only 4 departments report that they maintain data elements on the sex of the victim in electronic form (table 4.5).

Table 4.5. Number of departments with data elements that describe information about victims of new crimes

Data element	Questionnaire item number	In electronic format for—		In paper format	Have it in any format	Do not collect
		More than 75% of offenders	Less than 75% of offenders			
Sex of victim	194	2	2	9	13	24
Race of victim	195	2	0	8	10	27
Age of victim	196	2	1	9	12	25
If victim was a child	197	2	1	10	13	24
If victim knew offender	198	1	1	10	12	25
Relationship to offender	199	1	1	10	12	25
Address of victim	200	3	2	11	16	21

Note: Data elements with incomplete information are included in 'Have it in any format'. Totals of 'Have it in any format' and 'Do not collect' may not add up to 38 departments due to missing information about individual data elements.

Summary

Twelve of the 52 departments in the survey report that they do not maintain data elements on the behaviors of offenders under supervision in the

community. The other 40 departments report that they maintain these data elements.

For the 40 departments that maintain data about offenders under supervision, the data elements that describe the behaviors of offenders leading to terminations of supervision (table 4.2) and the criminal justice response to these behaviors (table 4.3) are more commonly collected in paper and in high-availability form than the other areas of data.

Most of the departments maintain data elements in high-availability form on the type of supervision, whether supervision was terminated, the length of supervision, and reasons for termination of supervision.

Most departments maintain few of the data elements about the employment status and living arrangements of offenders on release in the community.

