



Promising Practices for Improved Record Reporting

Many states faced challenges in creating state estimates for the NIAA records report over the three years of data collection. Often, these challenges in estimating were direct results of structural or reporting problems of actual NICS records. This brief presents a strategy that at least one state has implemented to address that problem.

Estimation Problem

Estimates do not include dispositions that could not be matched to charges.

Reporting Problem

Court records do not include fingerprints to positively match charge/arrest records to disposition records to make them available for reporting.

Strategy

Implement Live Scan devices in courthouses.

Implementing Live Scan Devices in Courts to Improve Record Matching

About this strategy

There are many cases in which arrest data cannot be matched to disposition data, and therefore, these records are not available for reporting purposes. Installing Live Scan devices in courthouses is a way to capture fingerprint data that weren't captured at arrest, therefore providing a match for the disposition. Court records are case based rather than person based, making the addition of a biometric identification desirable for accuracy purposes.

- **Who it may work for:** States that have a large number of missing fingerprints due to cite and release, subjects not reporting back to jail for printing after court date, prints being rejected for quality issue but subject released prior to obtaining new prints.
- **Costs:** Purchasing and installing the equipment, setting it up, and record management interface.
- **Timeframe for implementing:** Dependent on court technological capabilities and staff resources for adding fingerprinting to their duties.

Why this strategy makes a difference

If fingerprints are taken at the court, it eliminates the chance that a person will not return to jail for fingerprinting when ordered. Additionally, having a biometric and associated transaction number to match to the arrest record on the criminal history is a much quicker and accurate way to update the record compared to matching on name information received from the court.

Who's Doing It? Oregon

Oregon used NCHIP funds to install Live Scan devices in the courts to improve disposition matching.

For more information:

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More on NICS [here](#)

