



**Division of Criminal
Justice Services**

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Mark E. White
First Deputy Commissioner

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Annual Performance Report 2020

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This report fulfills the statutory requirement detailed in New York State Executive Law §§837(4)(a) and 837(12).

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Agency Overview

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has a mission to enhance public safety by providing resources and services that inform decision making and improve the quality of the criminal justice system. As a multi-function support agency, DCJS plays a key role in ensuring criminal justice partners across the state have the resources they need to effectively combat crime and improve public safety.

DCJS maintains the state's criminal history records and fingerprint files and performs background checks for employment and licensure. The agency also administers the state's Sex Offender Registry; the Missing Persons Clearinghouse; the state's DNA Databank in cooperation with the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center; and provides staff support to independently appointed commissions and councils, including the New York State Commission on Forensic Science, which monitors and accredits the state's forensic laboratories.

DCJS assists local government and not-for-profit partners in numerous ways, with a focus on the following key areas:

- Crime reduction, with an emphasis on reducing shootings and firearm-related homicides;
- Criminal justice grant administration;
- Criminal justice research and analysis;
- Programs that reduce recidivism;
- Probation Department and Alternative to Incarceration funding and oversight;
- Youth justice funding and coordination;
- Criminal history record management and identification;
- Sex offender registry management;
- Repair and certification of speed enforcement and Breathalyzer equipment;
- Ignition Interlock Program administration and regulation;
- Forensic services; and
- Law enforcement training, accreditation and support.

DCJS also collects, analyzes and publishes criminal and youth justice system data, including incidents of crime, arrests and dispositions. Data reported by local police departments, sheriffs' offices, probation departments and the state Office of Court Administration is compiled and made available on the DCJS [website](#) to provide the public and policy makers with important information about how the criminal justice system is operating in their communities.

As an agency that provides support to hundreds of essential public safety entities, DCJS had no choice but to adapt and respond to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of the DCJS workforce pivoted to a remote work environment and critical in-person operations continued in a manner that protected employees' health and safety. The following

Annual Performance Report outlines the core services provided and initiatives supported by DCJS during calendar year 2020.

DCJS Operations by The Numbers

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, vital DCJS operations and functions continued uninterrupted.

Throughout 2020, DCJS continued to maintain 24/7 fingerprint and criminal history operations, including:

- 271,217 arrest fingerprint requests were processed, providing immediate identification of arrestees to law enforcement and the courts.
- 508,031 civil fingerprint requests were processed, including those applying for jobs as schoolteachers, school bus drivers, childcare workers, and nursing home employees, keeping our most vulnerable populations safe.
- 31,879 additional fingerprint requests were processed for offenders who were incarcerated, on parole or probation or for other inquiries.
- The accredited DCJS Latent Print Laboratory assisted 130 investigations by analyzing and comparing 275 crime scene fingerprints collected by local police evidence technicians against 10 million individuals on file in DCJS's Statewide Automated Biometric Identification System (SABIS) and the FBI's fingerprint database of more than 100 million individuals.

Other data and record keeping operations that took place during 2020 include:

- 1,468 new sex offender registrations and 28,609 address changes were processed to maintain an accurate Sex Offender Registry. 26,206 searches of the Registry were conducted during 2020.
- 1,462 cases of missing children, college students or vulnerable adults were handled by the Missing Persons Clearinghouse.
- 186,720 Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) were processed into the DIR Repository related to domestic violence-related police activities.

Additional critical DCJS operations during 2020 also included:

- More than 28,000 criminal justice professionals were trained, either virtually or in person.
- 2,430 matches between offender DNA profiles and crime scene evidence profiles ("DNA hits") were reported to law enforcement agencies.
- 7,583 roadway safety instruments (speed detection and DWI) were repaired, calibrated and / or certified by DCJS for use by municipal police and sheriffs' departments.

- 27 law enforcement specific COVID-19 reference links and eight recorded webinars were added to a new COVID-19 Resources for Law Enforcement web page on the DCJS Criminal Justice Knowledge Bank.
- 399 statistical inquiries from the public, media, researchers and government requestors were responded to.

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments

Police Reform and Procedural Justice

DCJS works with the Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC) and other stakeholder organizations to provide law enforcement professionals with best practice guidance and model policies on a variety of topics. During 2020, DCJS assisted the MPTC with the publication of model policies on [Use of Force](#) and [Hate Crime Investigations](#).

DCJS also works with the MPTC on the Basic Course for Police Officers. An enhanced ethics module surrounding departmental culture, officer demeanor and active bystandership was recently added to the basic course. During 2020 over 1,400 police and peace officer recruits received the new ethics training.

During 2020, DCJS provided training for new and current Use of Force instructors in a manner consistent with the updated MPTC Use of Force Model Policy. DCJS also offered an online, one-hour Use of Force training, utilized by police as a refresher and to meet the annual use of force training requirement for peace officers. Approximately 11,000 peace and police officers completed the online Use of Force training during 2020.

DCJS also conducted several trainings on Principled Policing during 2020. Previously known as Procedural Justice, this curriculum focuses on the way police interact with the public, how these interactions influence the public's view of police and the public's willingness to obey the law. Principled Policing seeks to strengthen the relationships and trust between police agencies and the communities they serve.

In 2016, the MPTC and DCJS updated regulations requiring police and peace officer employers to report to DCJS officers who were removed for cause due to incompetence and misconduct. A removal for cause triggers an invalidation of an officer's training certificate, a requirement for all police in New York State. A subsequent employer is informed of the invalidation and the officer is required to retake and successfully complete the Basic Course for Police Officers, which is over 700 hours. DCJS maintains this decertification information and throughout 2020 more than 280 peace and police officer decertifications were reported to the agency.

Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative

The Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative uses evidence-based strategies, data and proven practices that target violent crime in 20 jurisdictions in the state's 17 urban centers outside of New York City. During 2020, approximately \$13.3 million was distributed to qualifying jurisdictions, with partner agencies receiving funding for personnel, including prosecutors and crime analysts, in addition to overtime and equipment.

Most jurisdictions focus efforts on reducing shootings and firearm-related homicides. Where shootings are less frequent and violent crime is driven by aggravated assaults, jurisdictions focus their efforts on reducing those assaults. Jurisdictions are required to use problem-oriented policing to analyze crime trends and demonstrate the integration of procedural justice when they request funding or support.

In October 2020, DCJS hosted a virtual version of its annual Law Enforcement Symposium. This event brings together criminal justice professionals from New York State and beyond to explore evidence-based policing, data-driven strategies and best practices for improving public safety. Although open to practitioners both within and outside the GIVE jurisdictions, the topics discussed at the symposium align closely with the tenets of the GIVE initiative. The 2020 virtual event was viewed by more than 1,200 participants.

Support of SNUG Street Outreach

The SNUG Street Outreach program uses a public health model to address gun violence by identifying the source of the violence, interrupting the transmission and offering services and support to those who wish to change their behavior. SNUG Street Outreach teams engage residents, religious leaders and the greater community in areas that have high incidence of gun violence, to change social norms and behaviors that perpetuate violence. SNUG outreach workers detect, interrupt and intervene in high-risk disputes before violence can occur, offering alternatives to violence and dispute resolution assistance to address confrontations. Outreach workers also preemptively engage individuals ages 14 to 25 whose current behavior increases their risk of gun violence. During 2020, DCJS provided grants to administer SNUG programs to nonprofit organizations in 12 communities: Albany, the Bronx, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mt. Vernon, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Syracuse, Troy, Wyandanch and Yonkers.

Starting in 2019, DCJS partnered with the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) to add a comprehensive social work component in the SNUG program. In 2020, SNUG Social workers were hired and embedded in three regional trauma centers: Albany Medical Center, Erie County Medical Center and Jacobi Medical Center. Funding from OVS also supports oversight and administration of the program and an evaluation of the SNUG social work program.

Probation and Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)

During 2020, the DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) promulgated new probation Part 357 regulations to accommodate recent changes to the PINS Law and the Family Court Act. Driven by the needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, DCJS supported a new web-based and electronic “Check-In” system that facilitated over 1 million contacts between probation departments and individuals under supervision. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DCJS also converted its training for all new probation officers to a virtual presentation of the *Fundamentals of Probation Practice* curriculum. Numerous additional specialized virtual trainings were also offered to probation departments, ATI providers and re-entry programs to ensure that services could continue to be delivered to individuals under court and parole supervision.

In 2020, DCJS’s ATI and re-entry community corrections portfolio served nearly 31,000 participants through approximately 200 programs, supported by approximately \$24 million in local assistance funding. Local assistance grants support the following program models within this

portfolio: Recidivism and Incarceration Reduction, Jail-Based Cognitive Behavioral Intervention, Employment Focused Services, County Re-Entry Task Forces, and a range of ATI programs funded pursuant to New York Executive Law Article 13-A. DCJS offers extensive training for grantee provider staff and local probation officials to ensure the effective delivery of high-quality services.

Criminal Justice Record Improvements

In 2019, the state passed legislation decriminalizing low level possession of marijuana. This legislation also provided individuals with relief from past convictions for eligible marijuana convictions. In coordination with the Office of Court Administration, DCJS has since developed system improvements to the State Computerized History file to ensure 202,000 eligible marijuana convictions are no longer released as part of a civil or criminal background check conducted by DCJS.

In 2020, the New York State Crime Reporting Program, administered by DCJS, became FBI-certified to submit local crime statistics to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This certification ensures all locally collected NIBRS data can be submitted in the format required by the FBI as part of their January 2021 NIBRS Transition Initiative.

Despite challenges presented by COVID-19, DCJS continued its multi-year effort to digitize and automate the Sex Offender Registry. During 2020, the agency worked on a system to be able to electronically accept and process new offender registrations from the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, which oversees the state's prison and parole systems.

Crime Analysis Center Network

In partnership with local law enforcement agencies, DCJS supports through funding and staffing a network of [10 Crime Analysis Centers \(CACs\) across the state](#). Each of these centers is staffed with trained sworn and civilian crime analysts and field intelligence officers and equipped with software and hardware to quickly capture, analyze and disseminate law enforcement data and information to assist police and prosecutors. In addition to being connected to one another, the centers in the state-supported network have access to information from locally-supported centers in Nassau and Westchester counties. As a statewide resource, the CACs directly support nearly 300 public safety agencies in 32 counties. During 2020, the 10 CACs responded to more than 60,000 requests for information or assistance from local law enforcement.

Youth Justice Initiatives

In December 2020, DCJS posted to its website the second and final statutorily required Raise the Age Task Force report. The report offers an early look at how full implementation of the phased Raise the Age law altered the state's youth justice landscape. A comprehensive new suite of Youth Justice System data has also been added to the [statistics page](#) of the DCJS website.

The Youth Justice Institute (YJI) is a partnership between DCJS, the Office of Children and Family Services and the University at Albany to improve the practice of youth justice across the state by providing technical assistance, education, training and research. During 2020, the YJI hosted a web-based panel series to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on children, teens and

young adults as part of an ongoing effort to reimagine a more equitable, compassionate and empirically driven youth justice system.

During 2020, DCJS facilitated training for new probation officers about racial and ethnic disparities, the mind science of implicit bias, racial anxiety and stereotype threat. DCJS staff also presented information about racial and ethnic disparities at local and national conferences and supported cross-agency groups working to address racial and ethnic disparities. DCJS also provided support for the state's Regional Youth Justice Teams (RYJT), which are partnerships of juvenile justice stakeholders from local government, service providers, the judiciary, community organizations and justice-involved youth and their families. These teams continued to advance youth justice reform efforts through the design and implementation of attendance mediation services, support for initiatives based in trauma-informed care, the use of art to strengthen protective factors and promote positive community engagement, and by providing mental health first aid training, detention diversion, cognitive behavioral therapy, non-violent crisis intervention, story-telling workshops and leadership training for youth.

Appendices

Appendix A

Criminal Justice Policy Boards and Commissions

DCJS supports nine advisory boards and commissions, members of which are appointed by the governor. These boards formulate public policy, develop strategic plans and advise the DCJS commissioner, the governor and legislators in areas of DNA; juvenile justice; motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention; police training and accreditation; probation practice and security guard training through the following offices: Office of Public Safety, Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Office of Forensic Services, Office of Program Development and Funding, Office of Juvenile Justice and Office of Legal Services.

Board of Examiners

The Sex Offender Registration Act, enacted in January 1996, established a five-member Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders to assess registrants released from jail or prison and to recommend a risk level. The board also determines whether an offender convicted in another jurisdiction must register with the state's Sex Offender Registry when the offender establishes a residence in New York State. Costs incurred by the board are supported by DCJS and DOCCS.

Commission on Forensic Science

The 14-member commission is empowered to develop minimum standards and a program of accreditation for all forensic laboratories in New York State. Accreditation of a forensic DNA laboratory is granted through the seven-member DNA Subcommittee, which also advises the commission on any matter related to the implementation of scientific controls and quality assurance procedures for the performance of forensic DNA analysis.

Council for the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

Federal and state law requires the establishment of a state council that must include the state compact administrator, representation from the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government, and a victim representative.

The Council brings together key stakeholders and serves as an advisory body to the state compact administrator and makes recommendations for the implementation of state policies and procedures that facilitate the effective tracking, supervision and rehabilitation of adult probationers and parolees.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

Federal law requires all states to establish an advisory group to oversee the strategic planning and federal grant funding allocation to organizations that address juvenile delinquency and prevention issues. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) has between 15 and 33 members who must have training, experience, or special knowledge in the areas of prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency or the administration of juvenile justice.

With DCJS staff support, the JJAG finalizes New York's three-year juvenile justice plan, which identifies funding priority areas. Federal juvenile justice funds are used as seed money to establish and support new and innovative projects that seek to measurably reduce juvenile crime,

promote individual accountability, enhance public protection and prevent delinquency through positive youth development.

Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Council

The 17-member council provides overall direction for the Law Enforcement Accreditation Program by issuing standards and setting policy. The Council also has exclusive authority to grant accreditation status.

Established in 1989, the program is designed to be a contemporary way of helping police agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance. The program has four principal goals: to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies utilizing existing personnel, equipment and facilities to the extent possible; to promote increased cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies and criminal justice agencies; to ensure the appropriate training of law enforcement personnel; and to promote public confidence.

Motor Vehicle Theft & Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

The 12-member board oversees a demonstration program that supports initiatives designed to reduce motor vehicle theft and related motor vehicle insurance fraud. The program provides state funds to support police and prosecutors in communities with high incidents of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud, allowing those jurisdictions to support specialized law enforcement strategies to combat motor vehicle and insurance-related crimes.

The Board has representation from the motor vehicle insurance industry and consumers, law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. The Board also develops an annual plan with recommendations on how to reduce motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud statewide.

Security Guard Advisory Council

The 17-member council addresses program and policy requirements and recommends rules and regulations to the DCJS commissioner concerning the following: the approval or revocation of security guard training schools and training programs; the minimum courses of study and all training requirements to be fulfilled by schools; the minimum qualifications for instructors at approved security guard training schools and training programs; and the training requirements for unarmed and armed security guards.

DCJS approves private security training schools and provides administrative oversight of mandated security guard training. The state Department of State is responsible for licensing security guards.

Municipal Police Training Council

The eight-member Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC) promulgates minimum training requirements for newly appointed police officers and a course of training for police officers appointed to supervisory positions. It also recommends rules and regulations for minimum standards for law enforcement and correctional training programs and instructor certifications. The MPTC develops and approves law enforcement model policies designed to enhance the way local law enforcement agencies serve and protect their communities.

Probation Commission

The seven-member commission, which includes the state director of probation and six other members, considers, advises and consults on all matters within the jurisdiction of state Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives.

Appendix B

In addition to this Annual Performance Report, DCJS is statutorily required to publish the following reports, which are posted to the DCJS [website](#).

Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to the Elderly Annual Report: This report contains information about committee activities and community-policing programs aimed at improving the quality of life and safety of elderly persons. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §844-b (3-a).

Crime in New York State Final Data: This report contains final index crime statistics for New York State. Historical crime data is also presented. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §837(4)(c).

Domestic Homicide in New York State: This report contains statewide and regional statistics on domestic homicide, with special focus on intimate partner homicide. Demographic characteristics of homicide victims, as well as the respective circumstances surrounding the homicide incidents, and the types of weapons used, are summarized.

Executive Law Article 13-A Classification / Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Annual Report: This report details county planning and programming efforts regarding ATI services in New York State. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law Article 13-A.

Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative Annual Report: This report contains information about GIVE, which provides funding to law enforcement agencies in 17 counties Upstate and on Long Island and requires those agencies to use evidence-based strategies to reduce gun violence and firearm-related homicides. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §837-a (8).

Hate Crimes in New York State Annual Report: This report contains statistics on hate crime incidents that law enforcement agencies reported to DCJS, including data on the number of incidents reported and the type of reported bias. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §837 (4-c).

Judicial Diversion Programs and Drug Law Changes Report: This report contains information related to 2009 Drug Law changes and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §837.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) / Youth Justice Annual Report: This report contains information about the state's youth justice efforts. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Program Annual Report: This report contains information and statistics about the state's Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Program and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §846-h (10).

Missing Persons Clearinghouse Annual Report: This report contains information and statistics about the state's Missing Persons Clearinghouse and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §§837-f (12) and 837-f-1 (3).

Motor Vehicle and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board Annual Report: This report contains information and statistics on the activities of the state's Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Demonstration Program and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §846-l (3)(h).

New York State Asset Forfeiture Annual Report: This report contains information related to monetary assets forfeited and distributed and satisfies the reporting requirements found in Executive Law §837-a (6).

New York State Criminal Justice Case Processing Report, Arrest through Disposition: This report is prepared to satisfy the *Violent Felony Offenses Report* and the *Mandatory Sentences of Imprisonment & Plea Bargaining Restrictions Upon Violent Felony Offender Report* and summarizes information and statistics on the processing of violent felony cases in New York State superior courts. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §§837-a (1), 837-a (2), 837-a (3) and 837 (4)(f).

New York State Report on Environmental Conservation Law Offenses Annual Report: This report is prepared to satisfy the *Environmental Crimes Report* and the *Environmental Conservation Law Felony Offenses Report* and contains information related to the processing of persons charged with violations of various provisions of the Environmental Conservation Law. It satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §§837-a (1), 837-a (5) and 837 (4-a).

New York State Report on Felony Insurance Fraud Offenses: This report contains information related to the processing of persons charged with insurance fraud felony offenses and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §§837-a (1) and 837-a (5).

Sex Offender Registry and Registry Toll Free Telephone Number Report: This report contains an overview of Registry activities and statistics and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Corrections Law §§168-p (4) and 168-s.

Sexual Offense Evidence Kit Inventory Report: This report contains information and statistics related to sexual offense evidence kits submitted to DCJS by police agencies, district attorneys' offices and public laboratories. The testing of kits and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §838-a.