



**Division of Criminal  
Justice Services**

# **Annual Performance Report**

**2014 and 2015**

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**New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Annual Performance Report 2014 – 2015**

*Issued May 2016*

This report is submitted as required by New York State Executive Law §§837(4)(a) and 837(12). This report fulfills the statutory requirement for calendar years 2014 and 2015.

The Appendix to this report lists other annual reports statutorily required to be published by the state Division of Criminal Justice Services.

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## Overview

The New York State 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.

A multi-function support agency, DCJS plays a pivotal role in ensuring its criminal justice partners in communities across the state have the resources they need to effectively combat crime and improve public safety. Within the agency, there are 11 offices: Administration; Criminal Justice Operations; Forensic Services; Internal Audit and Compliance; Justice Research and Performance; Juvenile Justice; Legal Services; Probation and Correctional Alternatives; Program Development and Funding; Public Safety; and Sex Offender Management. The agency has approximately 420 employees.

DCJS assists those local partners in a numerous ways, with a focus on the following key areas:

- Crime reduction, with a specific emphasis on reducing shootings and firearm-related homicides through data analysis and trend identification, intelligence-driven policing and evidence-based practices;
- Criminal justice grant administration;
- Criminal justice research and cost-benefit analyses;
- Programs to reduce recidivism;
- Probation Department funding and oversight;
- Juvenile justice funding and coordination;
- Criminal history record management and identification;
- Sex offender registry management;
- Forensic services; and
- Law enforcement training, accreditation and support.

In 2014, reported crime in New York State reached its lowest point since statewide reporting began in 1975. That milestone was eclipsed in 2015, when a record-low number of crimes was reported: a total of 388,731 crimes, a decrease of 5.2 percent when compared to the year before. New York continues to be the safest large state – those with a population of more than 10 million – in the nation. In 2014, the last year for which data are available, the state ranked fourth overall, behind Vermont, Idaho and New Jersey. New York also had the lowest incarceration rate of any large state in the nation.

This 2014-2015 Performance Report details the agency's major initiatives, showcases significant accomplishments and details the work done daily by DCJS to help ensure that criminal justice partners across the state have resources, training and support to better protect their communities.

## **Major Initiatives**

During 2014 and 2015, DCJS focused on four major initiatives and made significant strides toward integrating the use of evidence-based practices in those initiatives. Evidence-based practices are strategies that have been proven to work and can be empirically monitored for their effectiveness.

As part of that work, the agency now provides comprehensive technical assistance and training to criminal justice partners participating in those initiatives. This evolution of the way DCJS does business is designed to allow the agency to help ensure that proven practices are implemented as intended by criminal justice partners; monitor the effectiveness of key initiatives and programs; and ensure that the state supports programs that are not only effective, but a wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

## ***Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative***

DCJS created the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative, which focuses on using proven strategies to reduce shootings and firearm-related homicides in the state's urban centers outside of New York City. Launched in July 2014, GIVE evolved from the decade-old Operation IMPACT program and supports 20 police departments and their county partners – district attorneys' offices, probation departments and sheriffs' offices – in 17 counties that report 85 percent of the violent crime outside of New York City.

GIVE provides those agencies with funding for personnel, such as prosecutors and crime analysts, as well as overtime and equipment, but equally as important the initiative provides technical assistance and training to help agencies implement evidence-based programs that have been proven to reduce shootings and save lives. The initiative focuses on four core elements:

- *People*: individuals and groups that police find are most responsible for gun violence.
- *Places*: locations or “hot spots” where most violence is occurring.
- *Alignment*: coordinating crime-fighting efforts and some strategies among law enforcement and local violence prevention groups; and
- *Engagement*: involving key stakeholders and the community at large to build support for efforts to reduce gun violence.

In the two years since GIVE's inception, participating agencies have received more than \$26 million in funding. DCJS also has provided hundreds of hours of free technical assistance and training to law enforcement professionals from GIVE agencies so they can integrate multi-faceted violence-reduction strategies into their daily operations.

In addition to coordinating jurisdiction-specific and regional trainings, DCJS convened two symposia, bringing professionals from all GIVE agencies together to share their experience and hear from national experts and academics on evidence-based policing and procedural justice.

New York State is unique in coordinating and providing this type of assistance at the state level. All GIVE agencies have received technical assistance training in the following evidence-based strategies:

### ***Problem-Oriented Policing***

Under this approach, police and members of the community work together analyzing problems and developing customized responses to them. Problem-oriented policing places a high value on developing new responses to problems that are preventive in nature and not dependent on the use of the criminal justice system.

These responses typically engage other public agencies, the community and the private sector when their involvement has the potential for significantly contributing to the reduction of the problem. These responses are subject to rigorous evaluation to determine effectiveness. During 2015, all jurisdictions were asked to use this model to guide overall strategy implementation.

This approach also encourages information sharing among agencies so that effective practices can further enhance police work. DCJS staff members who oversee GIVE attended a national Problem-Oriented Policing conference in October 2015.

### Procedural Justice

Agencies participating in GIVE are required to incorporate the concept of procedural justice into their overall strategy to reduce gun violence. Procedural justice is designed to improve police-community relations by ensuring interactions between law enforcement and individuals are fair, and that individuals who come in contact with the criminal justice system believe they are being treated equitably during those encounters.

Studies have shown that procedural justice fosters trust and respect among individuals and the law enforcement professionals that serve them. To assist GIVE jurisdictions with implementation of these principles, DCJS sponsored a two-day Procedural Justice Symposium in partnership with the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, and the National Network of Safe Communities.

More than 200 law enforcement leaders – including both national and state level experts in procedural justice – attended the forum in Saratoga Springs in November 2015.

### Hot-Spots Policing

Mapping crime data can better identify areas of a community most prone to crime and violence. With this mapped data, police agencies can then better identify areas where they should concentrate resources. Hot-spots policing strategies use incident reports, calls for service and other information to identify concentrated areas of concern.

DCJS hosted three hot-spots policing workshops in 2014 that were attended by more than 150 police officers and prosecutors from 57 agencies. In 2015, staff from the consulting firm Justice and Security Strategies conducted on-site assessments in Newburgh and Mt. Vernon to provide assistance with those police departments' hot-spots policing strategy.

### Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

This tactic focuses on reducing crime through the effective use of lighting, landscaping, traffic patterns, code enforcement and maintenance of both buildings and public spaces. The concept operates around four principles: natural access control, natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement and maintenance.

The purpose of the training is to provide law enforcement, code enforcement and organizations involved in community crime prevention programs with the information needed to create their own initiatives to prevent crime through environmental design.

In 2014, DCJS hosted three, three-day workshops on the subject, delivered by the National Crime Prevention Council and attended by nearly 80 police officers and code enforcement officials from 37 agencies. In December 2015, the Council provided two training classes in Syracuse and Newburgh attended by 47 students from 19 agencies from GIVE jurisdictions.

### Focused Deterrence

GIVE jurisdictions are identifying the groups responsible for the bulk of violent crime in their communities and then using this information to employ a violence-reduction strategy known as focused deterrence.

This strategy is based on the premise that a small group of individuals is typically responsible for most of the shootings, gun violence and firearm-related deaths. The strategy identifies those chronic offenders, along with their associates, and targets them for enhanced attention, investigation, enforcement and prosecution.

GIVE jurisdictions began conducting call-ins, which are face-to-face meetings where police, prosecutors, probation and parole officers engage at-risk group members to put them on notice of the swift and certain punishments they will face if they continue to engage in violent behavior. In 2014, DCJS offered three regional trainings attended by more than 140 police and probation officers and prosecutors from 14 GIVE counties, as well as parole officers from the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

In 2014 DCJS, in partnership with the National Network for Safe Communities, began offering direct technical assistance to the GIVE jurisdictions of Albany and Newburgh to assist with the implementation of the Group Violence Intervention. In 2015 the cities of Niagara Falls and Buffalo also began working with the National Network. The John J. Finn Institute for Public Safety has been providing direct assistance to the City of Syracuse regarding their focused deterrence program, Syracuse TRUCE. Additionally, in 2015 the Finn Institute began offering technical assistance to the cities of Utica and Schenectady regarding their focused deterrence strategy.

### Street Outreach

The GIVE initiative encourages jurisdictions to incorporate street outreach work into their strategies in an effort to interrupt cycles of violence. Street outreach workers respond to shootings to prevent retaliation and detect and resolve conflicts likely to lead to shootings. They also develop relationships with high-risk individuals who are likely to engage in gun violence. Working in partnership with case managers, they help connect these individuals with self-improvement resources, including education and job training.

Individuals who perform street outreach also collaborate with neighborhood organizations and other community groups to organize neighborhood events and public education activities that promote anti-gun violence messages.

### Crime Analysis Center Network

The GIVE agencies also rely on a network of Crime Analysis Centers that DCJS supports in partnership with local law enforcement agencies in Albany, Broome, Erie, Monroe, Niagara and Onondaga counties.

A seventh center in the network, located in Franklin County near the state's northern border with Canada, serves four other North Country counties: Clinton, Essex, Jefferson and St. Lawrence. Each of these Centers is equipped with technology – both software and hardware – to capture, analyze and disseminate data, information and analysis.

Directors employed by DCJS oversee the centers and their staffs of crime analysts and field intelligence officers, which are funded by DCJS and local law enforcement agencies in each respective county. Analysts access data systems from those agencies participating in the Crime Analysis Center network as well as those independently operated in Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk counties, thereby acting as a centrally located unit responsible for conducting in-depth analysis of data.

New York is also one of only three states that certifies crime analysts, a process facilitated by DCJS. Crime Analysis Centers, in conjunction with police department-based analysts, provide the data GIVE jurisdictions require to foster a number of initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence. The state's investment in personnel and technology has allowed police agencies to synthesize and share information in ways they never could before.

## ***Street Outreach/SNUG Initiative***

New York State first funded street outreach programs in 2009, calling the program SNUG and targeting communities identified by the state Senate. Since that time, the SNUG program has evolved, with DCJS strengthening oversight by providing training and technical assistance to help ensure the program is delivered as designed.

As noted earlier, street outreach programs aim to reduce gun violence by using individuals trained to reduce violence or prevent further violence from occurring when tensions arise within their community. Also employed by street outreach programs are case managers, whose role is to connect individuals with resources, including education and job training.

Street outreach also engages residents, religious leaders and law enforcement to change the social norms and behaviors that perpetuate violence. DCJS has provided information and training about two street outreach models: Cure Violence, developed by the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health, and the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence in Providence, R.I.

In 2014 and 2015, DCJS provided grants to non-profit organizations to administer street outreach programs in 11 communities. Organizations in 10 locations – Albany, Buffalo, the Bronx, Hempstead, Mt. Vernon, Syracuse, Rochester, Troy, Wyandanch and Yonkers – received funding in both years. Rockland County received funding in 2014, while Newburgh received funding in 2015.

State funding for street outreach programs in these communities totaled \$6.6 million.

### **Coordinated Approach**

Each program must implement a coordinated, community-based violence reduction strategy that can include neighborhood events and public education activities. These events and activities are often led by trusted community advisers who have backgrounds similar to the youth they are trying to reach. Advisers include former gang members, individuals with prior convictions for firearms crimes and those who had been incarcerated but have turned away from crime.

Street outreach programs in the communities funded by DCJS served more than 250 high risk participants with active casework during fiscal year 2014–2015, providing those individuals with referrals to drug and/or alcohol treatment, job training, education completion, resume building, job referrals, anger management courses and overall assistance in putting their life in order.

Public education events showcasing the non-violence approach to conflict and community education on reducing violence were hosted more than 750 times during the same time frame. SNUG/street outreach programs also coordinated events to respond to nearly every shooting and homicide in their target areas, all with the aim of “changing the norm” in that community to not accept violence.

### Oversight, Technical Assistance and Training

DCJS has a state operations director on staff whose responsibility is to oversee the funded programs, coordinate training, serve as a liaison among funded programs and law enforcement in each community and to connect the funded programs with each other to share information and best practices.

The agency coordinated two conferences – one day-long and the other two days – that brought representatives from all funded programs together for training and program evaluation and to share best practices in 2014 and 2015. All individuals hired by street outreach programs also attend a 40-hour Violence Interruption Reduction Training, while program managers and individuals from the non-profit organizations that receive funding to administer the programs also attend another 32-hour management/supervisory course.

In addition, the New York State Office of Victim Services, which provides compensation to crime victims deemed to be eligible, met with street outreach programs to explain the agency's eligibility guidelines and the resources that may be available to victims and their families.

## ***Naloxone Training***

Law enforcement training is a core DCJS function and in 2014, the agency joined with state agencies and other partners to help local law enforcement agencies – police departments, sheriffs’ offices, probation departments and district attorneys’ offices – save lives amid the ongoing heroin and opioid epidemic.

The agency’s Office of Public Safety developed a naloxone training program for police and peace officers in partnership with the Department of Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the national Harm Reduction Coalition, Albany Medical Center and others. Commercially known as Narcan, naloxone reverses the effects of an opioid, including heroin or a prescription medication such as hydrocodone and oxycodone, allowing the individual to regain consciousness and resume normal breathing.

Throughout 2014, DCJS coordinated two types of trainings for law enforcement: hour-long classes that teach officers how to use naloxone and provide them with the medication for free and two-hour “train-the-trainer” classes that teach training officers the curriculum so they can train officers within their agencies, multiplying the reach of the state-sponsored classes.

The training also provides an overview of the state’s Good Samaritan Law, which is intended to encourage individuals to seek medical attention for someone who is experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other life-threatening injury, who otherwise may have refused to do so for fear of criminal prosecution; details signs and symptoms of opioid overdose; and gives officers sample policies for their agencies that deal with the use and storage of naloxone.

### *Training*

By the end of 2015, DCJS had received notification that more than 8,000 law enforcement professionals representing 700-plus agencies that employ police and peace officers across the state had completed the training; that number includes nearly 2,500 instructors approved to deliver the training.

### *Successes*

Since New York State began training police and peace officers, naloxone has been administered 1,027 times, with approximately 900 documented opioid overdose reversals. In fact, one officer who attend a training saved a life less than an hour after the class ended.

### *International Recognition*

The state’s naloxone work has received both international and national attention. During the fall of 2014, the acting director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy attended a DCJS training session in Queens and DCJS representatives presented the training program at the Harm Reduction Coalition’s Conference in Baltimore.

The U.S. Department of Justice also added the state's naloxone training materials to their toolbox site for sharing with other states and DCJS staff members were invited to attend the International Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference in Amsterdam, Holland, to discuss New York State's program.

#### *National Requests for Assistance*

Several states also sought information from New York about its training. As a result of those requests, New Mexico and Connecticut formally requested to use the state's curriculum, with the New Mexico Department of Health implementing a naloxone training program for law enforcement based on the curriculum. The training has shown results beyond New York, as the County Sheriff's Office in Santa Fe, N.M., administered naloxone to an unresponsive 25-year-old man within days of receiving the training modeled after New York's curriculum. The individual regained consciousness even before paramedics could arrive.

## ***Results First and Alternatives to Incarceration Programming***

New York is one of 20 states participating in the Results First initiative, a project of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The Results First Initiative works with states and municipalities to develop tools policy makers need to identify and fund effective programs that yield high returns on investment. DCJS leveraged Results First to expand the use of evidence-based programming for the alternatives to incarceration (ATI) and re-entry programs it funds, applying the model to predict how individual interventions will affect re-offending by New York's criminal justice populations.

In January 2015, Pew-MacArthur published a case study recognizing New York State as a leader in this work. Titled "New York's Investment in Evidence-Based Policymaking," the case study showcases DCJS' commitment to ATI interventions and highlights how effective local programming can reduce both crime and costs over the long run.

In addition, the agency also expanded resources and assistance available to grantees in four key areas to increase their alignment with evidenced based principals:

### *Training*

To increase the skills of facilitators and provider staff who deliver direct services, DCJS provided extensive training. The agency:

- Facilitated training in Proven Practices in Justice Programming, which was provided to 131 participants from 81 programs at three locations around the state.
- Conducted training in determining risk and needs assessment, along with providing expanded access to the online use of these instruments at no charge to the programs.
- Offered training in evidence-based program models, including the National Institute of Correction's cognitive-based intervention, Thinking for a Change, and Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training. OWDS training certified participants to deliver Ready Set Work!, a 20-hour skill-based training to equip probationers with the necessary tools to get and retain quality employment groups to justice involved populations.

### *Distance Learning and Other Resources*

During 2014, DCJS established a resource library on effective interventions for providers/grantees, which use the library to improve their practices or obtain information on a particular strategy. DCJS introduced a comprehensive distance learning program in 2015; the program provides grantees with free access to online classes on evidence-based practices. Designed by the University of Cincinnati and tailored to New York, the modules count toward in-service training requirements. DCJS also offers, via webcast, periodic discussions with expert

facilitators to discuss course content and how to best apply these principles in the field.

### *Fidelity Assessments and Action Planning*

Developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute, the Correctional Program Checklist is used to conduct assessments to measure programs' alignment with evidence-based practices. DCJS established a system in 2014, based on the checklist, to assist programs in improving participant outcomes.

The agency contracted with assessors from the Rochester Institute of Technology and John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan; assessors were fully trained in the fall of 2014 and have conducted 20 assessments as of 2015. After each assessment, DCJS staff work closely with the provider to develop an action plan to implement changes that will increase alignment with evidence-based practices.

### *Evaluation*

DCJS established an evaluation system in 2014 to measure recidivism outcomes among ATI program participants. Sophisticated research methods are used to match program participants with similar individuals who did not participate in those programs to measure differences in recidivism. Once evaluations are completed, programs are invited to attend forums to discuss the results; two forums were conducted during 2015.

In addition, to support the new evaluation process, DCJS implemented a new reporting system for grantees and also prepares recidivism studies, as well as quarterly and annual reports to the grantees. These reports provide ongoing feedback on participant demographics, legal history, placing offenses, and program outcomes to help programs better understand the individuals they serve.

## **Significant Accomplishments**

DCJS made a significant impact on public safety during 2014 and 2015 through funding and overseeing a variety of programs and efforts to support to law enforcement and the criminal justice system across New York State.

## ***Support for Law Enforcement***

### **Training**

DCJS offers a wide variety of direct and facilitated training to law enforcement professionals and other criminal justice personnel across New York State. Training is provided to police, probation departments, and other criminal justice professionals in subject areas such as officer safety, conducting investigations, and supervising probationers.

Trainings are provided in the traditional classroom setting and online. DCJS regularly develops new courses to address current day issues in criminal justice. In 2014, DCJS conducted 393 training courses for 20,602 participants statewide, and in 2015, 382 courses were conducted for 20,661 participants statewide.

A comprehensive list of training provided appears in Appendix A.

### **Operation Return**

This collaborative effort involving local, state, and federal partners, including the U.S. Marshals Service, is designed to locate and apprehend sex offenders who have absconded from Probation supervision. The initiative returns those offenders to the “wanting” jurisdiction in New York State for prosecution on the associated violation of probation and to face any criminal charges. Through the program, 17 probation departments across the state identified 21 probationer absconders. Of those, 11 sex offenders have been apprehended and returned to court for re-sentencing: one Level 1 offender, eight Level 2 offenders and two Level 3 offenders.

### **Investigative Leads Provided by State’s DNA Databank**

DCJS, in partnership with the New York State Police, administers the state’s DNA Databank, which is part of the national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The agency assists law enforcement in solving and preventing crime by notifying agencies of investigative leads – also known as DNA hits – to the Databank.

Under New York State law, any person convicted and sentenced for a felony crime or Penal Law misdemeanor is required to provide a DNA sample. A hit is the result of a match between a convicted offender DNA sample and DNA profile developed from crime scene evidence.

At the end of 2015, there were 644,504 offender samples on file and 53,467 crime scene profiles on file in the state’s DNA Databank. In 2014 and 2015, there were 3,199 investigative leads provided law enforcement. Since the Databank’s inception in 1996 through December 2015, there have been there have been a total of 17,240 hits to the DNA Databank.

## Missing Persons Clearinghouse

Located at DCJS, the Missing Persons Clearinghouse is responsible for providing assistance to law enforcement agencies handling cases involving children, college students and vulnerable adults who have gone missing. The Clearinghouse also administers three Alert programs, activated when children under 21, college students of any age, or adults who are 18 or older and have a cognitive impairment, brain injury or mental disability are reporting missing. Individuals must be deemed at credible risk of harm for an Alert to be activated.

The Clearinghouse improved its services to law enforcement in the following ways in 2014 and 2015:

- *“Find Them” Web Application:* This mobile device-friendly web application was created to assist law enforcement officers with the investigation and search for a missing person. Designed to be used by first responders and investigators, the application provides a list of suggested tips and resources, based on conditions and circumstances selected by officers that are applicable to the case. It is accessible from any device connected to the Internet, including smart phones.
- *Streamlined Missing Persons Reporting/Alert Activation:* A new automated system provides law enforcement with a single point of entry for Missing Persons cases through the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal (IJ Portal), a secure online system that provides access to a wide variety of criminal justice information and data. The system allows officers to report cases to the state and FBI and allows them to request assistance from the Clearinghouse at the same time they report missing person cases. This has resulted in Alerts begin issued within minutes, instead of hours.
- *Project Lifesaver Program:* DCJS contracted with Project Lifesaver International to provide life-saving equipment and training to agencies in 55 counties. The state provided agencies with nearly 600 Project Lifesaver tracking devices at no cost for use by children under 18 who may have autism, Down syndrome or another type of cognitive impairment that puts them at risk for wandering or becoming lost. The transmitters, which are worn on the wrist or ankle, emit a tracking signal that allows a child to be located quickly after going missing.
- *Mobile Friendly Lead/Tip Form:* This new form enables users of PCs, tablets or mobile phones who are viewing case details of missing children, college students and vulnerable adults to easily submit information that may be helpful in locating the missing person. The form was created in April 2015 and resulted in the submission of more than 70 leads.
- *Unidentified Person Reporting Tool:* This unique tool, created as a result of a partnership with the state Office of Information Technology Services, allows Clearinghouse staff to search the state’s unidentified person database in order to make comparisons with the state’s missing person database. In addition, the new system has the ability to provide custom reports and statistics related to unidentified persons in New York State.

## ***Justice System Improvements and Initiatives***

### **Agency-wide Process Improvement**

In 2015, DCJS leveraged the process improvement principle adopted by the New York State Lean Office to catalogue and review agency work processes. All DCJS offices participated in this effort with 619 work processes identified and 23 processes reviewed for opportunities to increase both efficiencies and the quality of work products. This initiative is anticipated to expand in 2016 as more staff learn about the concepts behind process improvement.

### **Sex Offender Registry System Improvements**

New functionality was added to the Sex Offender Registry in 2014 to address a long-standing limitation that resulted in only the most recent conviction for which an offender was registered being available. Now, all convictions for which an offender is required to register are listed in the Registry and available to the public and law enforcement.

To prepare for this project, Registry staff performed an analysis that showed more than 1,500 registrants had two or more eligible convictions. Information on each case was carefully reviewed by Registry staff and all registerable convictions were entered into the Sex Offender Registry database. As of December 2014, all of those “historical” convictions were available to the public and law enforcement. In 2015, DCJS initiated projects that will allow for electronic sex offender registration receipt and processing, and the integration of information between sex offender management stakeholder agencies.

### **Compliance with Uniform Crime Reporting Rape Definition Change**

The FBI expanded its Uniform Crime Reporting program definition of rape in 2012 to more accurately reflect the scope and volume of sexual assaults nationwide, effective January 2013. At the same time, DCJS modified how it collects data and as a result, can identify rapes reported under each definition, allowing New York State to continue compiling historical trends in rape reporting while also analyzing the impact of expanding the definition of the crime. DCJS issued a report in 2014 to all police agencies, detailing statistics on local compliance and continued those efforts in 2015 to monitor agencies’ compliance with this new requirement.

### **New Type of Criminal History Record Available**

Individuals are able to obtain copies of their own criminal history records from DCJS. In 2015, the agency made available a “suppressed” version of criminal history records upon request to individuals. In the past, individuals could only receive their full criminal history record, which included sealed events. Those events, which include arrests that had been dismissed, were not provided through a civil fingerprint background check for employment or licensure. Many individuals, however, were not certain what information from their criminal histories would be released upon that check. By receiving a suppressed copy of their criminal histories, they can confirm exactly what information will be made available to potential employers or licensing agencies and what will remain sealed.

### *Risk Assessment and Alternatives to Incarceration Programs*

DCJS expanded the use of risk assessment tools to Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) programs across the state as part of new requirement that those programs primarily target services to those at higher risk of reoffending. To facilitate that work, DCJS trained 37 Community Corrections programs in the use of the COMPAS risk assessment tool and have provided secure access to the tool at no charge.

### *Expanded Information Available on Felony Processing*

In 2014, the agency expanded information available to district attorney's offices through the IJ Portal: quarterly felony processing reports and annual reports back to 2010 are available for every DA's office in the state. These reports include statistics on felony cases arraigned in superior court and their disposition. In the past, district attorneys made special requests to DCJS for copies of their reports or reports for neighboring counties. The on-demand availability of the reports allows each district attorney's office to access information as needed.

### *Improvements to Local Assistance Funding Processes*

DCJS processes and administers approximately 1,600 local grant contracts per year, supported with nearly \$200 million in state and federal funding. In 2014, the Office of Program Development and Funding underwent a significant reorganization and increased its staffing to improve contract processing times, and strengthen accountability and contract and grantee monitoring. Additionally, the office successfully implemented new requirements for local government grantees to utilize minority and women-owned business enterprises within their grant-funded programs.

### *Crime Laboratory Report Standardization*

In conjunction with the New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Council (NYCLAC), the Office of Forensic Services facilitated Technical Working Groups in all disciplines accredited in New York State to develop standard components that would appear in each lab report, standardized reporting language, conditions where qualifiers or disclaimers would appear, standardized language for the qualifiers and disclaimers, and set definitions within each discipline.

This initiative was the first in the nation. Laboratory reports are an essential tool of the criminal justice system, explaining the value of evidence that has been examined in laboratories. Compliance with these guidelines, which is voluntary, will help laboratory professionals summarize their work in a manner that is both scientifically accurate and understandable to members of the criminal justice community.

### *Creation of a Backlog Technical Working Group*

In response to the issue of backlogs in crime laboratories across the country, the Office of Forensic Services started a Technical Working Group on Backlog Reduction. Composed of

members from all crime laboratories in the state, the working group has allowed those labs to share successful strategies that have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations. The working group also developed standardized definitions for the work that is performed in the crime lab, allowing the true value of potential efficiencies to be evaluated in one laboratory before they are adopted by another, and is in the process of developing best practices on backlog for backlog reduction that can be used both in New York and across the country.

#### *Online Training Initiative for Forensic Laboratories*

The Office of Forensic Services has always provided in person, specialized training to members of the laboratories accredited by New York State. In 2014, office partnered with the state of Texas to develop online trainings that allow examiners in both states to receive quality training without leaving their labs. In addition to creating the eight training courses, an online platform hosts presentations members of New York and Texas laboratories have made at scientific meetings that can be used for professional development by lab staff unable to attend those conferences.

## ***Juvenile Justice System Improvements***

### **Juvenile Records Quality Improvement**

DCJS took several actions to improve the quality of felony juvenile delinquent records and to help ensure that local criminal justice agencies are complying with the law:

- *Standard Practices Manual:* DCJS has published a Juvenile Justice Standards Practice Manual for local police agencies that are statutorily required to fingerprint juveniles. The manual covers the proper electronic transmission of juvenile fingerprints to DCJS and details procedures for maintaining records, as well as sealing and record destruction requirements.
- *New Guidance and Procedures:* The agency disseminated written guidance to law enforcement agencies, probation departments and county attorneys' offices regarding DCJS notification requirements. A standardized form also was developed to ensure that the agency is notified when juvenile delinquency cases are terminated so that records are destroyed as required by law.
- *Records Analysis and Quality Improvement:* An analysis of juvenile criminal history records allowed DCJS to identify data quality issues with thousands of juvenile arrests dating back to the 1980s. This analysis allowed DCJS to update, correct or remove those records, consistent with policies, procedures and statute. In addition, DCJS also received a federal grant in 2015 to automate the transmission of juvenile delinquent felony dispositions from the Office of Court Administration to DCJS. This critical project will automate several manual processes and improve the timeliness of updates.

### **Training**

DCJS supported training for professionals and community members in problem-solving, trauma-informed practice, school-justice partnerships, restorative justice, disproportionate minority contact, youth and family engagement, community capacity-building and other best practices as related to juveniles. In 2014, 1,208 individuals were trained, and in 2015, 384 individuals were trained.

### **School Leadership Summits**

DCJS partnered with the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children to support work focused on keeping youth in school and out of court. Three regional school leadership summits and two workshops on arrest diversion and school climate were held in 2014.

### Justice Involved Youth with Mental Health and Co-occurring Disorders

DCJS supported two main initiatives targeted to this population:

- A partnership with Translational Research on Interventions for Adolescents in the Legal System through Columbia University's Research Center provided expert guidance to juvenile justice agencies in six counties: Niagara, Onondaga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Orange, and Nassau regarding implementing evidence-based practices for both mental health and substance use assessment.
- A program supported by the Bureau of Justice Administration's Justice-Mental Health Collaboration Project diverted non-violent youth at Probation Intake in Onondaga and Schenectady counties from unnecessary court involvement by implementing behavioral health screening and matching to evidence-based services.

### Juvenile Re-Entry Second Chance Grant

A 2013 Second Chance Act Juvenile Re-Entry Implementation Grant received from the US Department of Justice supports projects that were implemented in 2014 and continued throughout 2015. The award supports re-entry coordinators in Oneida, Monroe and Niagara counties. The coordinators bring local stakeholders together on task force teams, focused on building communities' capacity for addressing the needs of returning youth and their families.

### Support for Regional Youth Justice Teams

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group allocated a share of New York State's federal delinquency funds to support priorities identified by regional youth justice teams. Awards made to the regions were used for training and technical assistance, data improvement, technological advances and pilot projects geared toward sustainable system reform. To support the local effort, county-level data for juvenile justice arrest and case processing activities is now available on the DCJS public website.

## Appendix A

### Training for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Professionals: At a Glance

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
In-Person Classes:	393	382
Online Classes:	16	23
Total Attendees:	20,602	20,661

### Training Detail

Course Categories/Topics:	2014		2015	
	Courses Offered	Personnel Trained	Courses Offered	Personnel Trained
<b>Accident/Highway Safety and Vehicle Interdiction</b> - Commercial Vehicle Awareness, DWI Detection, Documentation and Testimony, Breath Analysis, Vehicle Crash Management - All levels, Impaired Drivers	38	797	44	922
<b>Crime Analysis</b> - Fundamentals for Crime Analysts, Crime Data and UCR, Crime Analysis Symposium, ArcMapping, Telephone Toll Analysis, Photo Imaging Mugshot System	8	170	16	232
<b>Investigative</b> - Aquatic Death and Homicidal Drowning Investigations, Cellular Phone Investigations, Social Networking, Animal Cruelty Interview and Interrogation, Search Warrants	18	1,223	26	2,019
<b>Specialized</b> - Officer Safety, Leadership, Peer Training, Naloxone, Sniper Observer, De-escalation for Military, Terrorism, High Stress Events, Suicide Prevention, Traffic Stops, Disability Awareness	100	3,592	39	2,590
<b>Mental Health</b> - T.R.A.U.M.A., Suicide Prevention in County Jails and Police Lockups, Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention	9	626	19	1,292
<b>GIVE</b> - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Hot-Spot Policing, Ceasefire University	10	742	6	187
<b>Corrections</b> - Jail Time Credit and Calculation	7	189	-	-
<b>Security Guard</b> - School Director Orientation	5	79	3	36
<b>Law Enforcement On-Line</b> - BAC Re-certification, Discovery for Police, Photo Array, Alzheimer's for First Responders, Syringe Programs	10	4,315	14	4,932
<b>Basic Probation</b> - Fundamentals of Probation Practice (FPP), Officer Safety and Survival, Initial Firearms	10	241	6	126

<b>Probation Management</b> - Executive Leadership, Annual Plans, Probation Management	3	89	2	51
<b>Re-entry/ ATI</b> - Re-entry, Alternatives to Incarceration, CRTF Reporting, Regional Re-entry Job Summits, Introduction to Fidelity, Proven Practices in Criminal Justice Programming, Employment Forum, Correctional Program Checklist	10	416	17	590
<b>Employment</b> - Offender Workforce Development Specialist Facilitator Training	1	25	2	47
<b>Cognitive Behavioral</b> - Thinking for Change Facilitator Training	7	132	17	47
<b>Probation Miscellaneous</b> - Risk/Need Assessment, Interstate: Adult and Juvenile, Ignition Interlock, Leandra's Law, DWI, Caseload Explorer, Probation Peer Specialist (JMHCPC), Medicaid and Healthy Homes and Criminal Justice, Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery, DNA Collection, Promoting Family Responsibility of Criminal Justice Involved Parents Receiving Probation Services, Conferences and Symposiums	49	2,626	37	2,068
<b>DNA Sample Collection</b> - Parole Officer Recruits, Court Officers, Court Clerks, Magistrates	3	180	19	679
<b>Forensic</b> - Palm Print Comparison Techniques, DNA Likelihood Ratio, Fire Debris Analysis, Crystal Reports, Adv. Footwear Examination, SOFT Toxicology Workshop, Mass Spec./Emerging Drugs, ASCLD/LAB Assessor Course	12	307	14	443
<b>Forensic On-line</b> - Overview Root Cause Analysis, Root Cause Analysis with Corrective Action, Measurement System Analysis, Basic Statistical Process Control, Advanced Statistical Process Control	5	319	8	542
<b>Integrated Justice Portal</b> - Use and Dissemination Agreements, Portal Applications and Access, Portal Overview, Reading the RAP Sheet	-	-	11	663
<b>Fingerprint Training &amp; Quality Assurance</b> - Ink and Roll Essentials, Courts, Livescan/ Card Scan	5	39	10	121
<b>Latent Fingerprints</b> - Latent Print Processing, Advanced Latent Print Processing, Certified Latent Print Examiner, SABIS, Hands on Comparison Exercises, Introduction to Latent Prints, Police Crime Scene and Evidence Specialist Course	9	208	12	235

<b>Missing Persons Clearinghouse</b> - Missing Persons Toolbox, Investigations Basic Course for Police, Missing Person Portal Entry, Conference Presentations: NYS Chiefs of Police, Training Directors, NYS 911 Coordinators, NYS Undersheriff's, NYS Sheriffs', National Association for Search & Rescue - Managing the Lost Person Incident, Lost Person Behavior/Basic Search Skills	<b>25</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>910</b>
<b>Missing Persons Clearinghouse On-line</b> - 911 Dispatchers and First Responders	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Crime Reporting and Data</b> - Classifying and Scoring Offenses in Uniform Crime Reporting, Reporting Juvenile Arrests, Reporting Hate Crimes, Crime Reporting - Domestic Violence Victim Data,	<b>4</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>Funding</b> - Grantee Information	<b>4</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Sex Offender Management</b> - Supervising Sex Offenders in the Community, Understanding and Apprehending Sex Offenders, Internet Sex Offenders	<b>8</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Human Trafficking</b> - Human Trafficking for Law Enforcement and the Community	<b>16</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,051</b>
<b>Juvenile Justice</b> - Juvenile Justice and Disproportionate Minority Contact Basics, Regional School Justice Leadership Summit, Justice Mental Health Collaboration Training, Policing the Teen Brain, Utilizing the Risk Assessment in Juvenile Re-Entry Planning, Regional Youth Justice Teams, School Arrest Diversion, School Climate, Juvenile Reentry: Reducing Recidivism and Improving Outcomes, County Juvenile Justice Profiles	<b>16</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>384</b>

## 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: [www.criminaljustice.ny.gov](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov)

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

GIVE Annual Report: Activities of jurisdictions that participate in the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative, which targets shootings and firearm-related homicides in 17 counties upstate and on Long Island, which satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §837-a(8).

Missing Persons Clearinghouse Annual Report: Information and statistics about New York State's Missing Persons Clearinghouse which satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §837-f(12).

Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Program Annual Report: Information and statistics about New York State's Accreditation Program which satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §846-h(10).

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

New York State Felony Processing Final Report, Indictment through Disposition: Summarizes the processing of felony cases in New York State superior courts and satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §§837-a(1) and 837-a(2).

New York State Violent Felony Offense Processing Report: Information related to the processing of persons charged with violent felony offenses satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §§837-a(3) and 837(4)(f).

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

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

New York State Report on Environmental Conservation Law Hazardous Waste and Waste Disposal Offenses: Information related to the processing of persons charged with violations of various provisions of the Environmental Conservation Law which satisfies the reporting requirement found in Executive Law §§837-a(1), 837-a(5).

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

Reports on 2009 Drug Law Changes DCJS is required to study the impact of the 2009 drug law changes. Reports satisfying the reporting requirement of Executive Law §837(4)(b-1) are available at: <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/drug-law-reform/index.html>.

## Appendix C

### **Criminal Justice Policy Boards and Commissions**

DCJS supports seven 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, Governor and Legislature in areas of DNA, juvenile justice, motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention, police training and accreditation and security guard training through the following offices: Office of Public Safety, Office of Forensic Services, Office of Program Development and Funding, Office of Juvenile Justice and Office of Legal Services.

#### *Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders*

The Sex Offender Registration Act established a five-member Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders to assess registrants released from jail or prison and 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 the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

#### *Commission on Forensic Science*

The 14-member Commission on Forensic Science 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.

#### *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 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 Juvenile Justice Advisory Group 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 Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Council provides overall direction for the state's voluntary 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 New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention 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 the 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.

#### *Municipal Police Training Council*

The eight-member Municipal Police Training Council 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; instructor certifications and develops and approves law enforcement model policies designed to enhance the way local law enforcement agencies serve and protect their communities.

#### *Security Guard Advisory Council*

The 17-member Security Guard Advisory 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 New York State Department of State is responsible for licensing security guards.