

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



Attorney General's Program for Improving the Nation's Criminal History Records

**Bureau of Justice Statistics
Implementation Status Report**

February 1992

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



Attorney General's Program for Improving the Nation's Criminal History Records

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

**Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.
Director**

**Bernard Shipley and Linda Ruder
of the Bureau of Justice Statistics
prepared this report.**

The Assistant Attorney General is responsible for matters of administration and management with respect to the OJP agencies: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime. The Assistant Attorney General establishes policies and priorities consistent with the statutory purposes of the OJP agencies and the priorities of the Department of Justice.

Foreword

Improving the data quality of criminal history records stored in local, State, and Federal systems is a priority that has been undertaken by all levels of government. This priority, in fact, has garnered the support of numerous national leaders, including the President of the United States. For over 20 years, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and its predecessor agency have been on the forefront of activities relating to the management and use of criminal history records. During this period of relatively steady progress, we have witnessed far-reaching changes in system technologies, automation, and data utilization, as well as changes in laws and information needs.

Policymakers and practitioners have become increasingly aware of the need for accurate, complete, and timely records in support of criminal justice activities and also for certain noncriminal justice purposes. Particularly acute is the absence of disposition information. A significant percentage of criminal history record information maintained in State central repositories consists of arrest information without final dispositions.

The importance of improving criminal history records cannot be overstated. While the utility of criminal history records for criminal justice uses has long been acknowledged, the increasing use of such records for identifying habitual criminals, for making bail and pretrial release decisions, for sentencing determinations, and for correctional supervision and release decisions all highlight the importance of *accurate* records for a broad array of criminal justice purposes.

Foreword

The importance of the criminal history record itself continues to expand as its utility for new purposes becomes apparent. This is evidenced by the burgeoning use of criminal history record information by noncriminal justice government agencies, the private sector, and researchers. Such uses include: background checks for licensing, pre-employment screening, and security clearances. These purposes emphasize more than ever the critical need to maintain records that are accurate, complete, and available in a timely fashion to authorized noncriminal justice users. The public increasingly demands that childcare facilities seek to ensure that employees pose no criminal threat. Legislation requiring background checks for childcare workers and transportation workers has been a subject of Congressional interest and national debate. Employers in other professions and occupations are also interested in performing background checks of employees who apply for certain sensitive positions. For making various employment decisions, the public increasingly demands the availability of accurate background information.

Availability of accurate and complete records is especially critical to the task of identifying felons who attempt to purchase firearms. In a March 1991 overview of the Program for Improving Criminal History Records, the Attorney General highlighted record quality as a key element necessary for the implementation of a point-of-sale system to identify felons attempting to purchase firearms. BJS is committed to the development of more efficient systems for improving criminal record information, transmitting such data, and thereby identifying felons. While imposing minimal burdens on law-abiding citizens, these efforts will facilitate implementation of point-of-sale systems that help prevent illegal sales of firearms to convicted felons.

Foreword

Although the challenge of addressing incomplete and inaccurate criminal history records is formidable, it is not insurmountable. Some State central repositories have achieved disposition reporting rates in excess of 70%. The BJS *Survey of Criminal History Information Systems* shows that in 1989, 23 States, representing 51% of the Nation's population, reported that 70% or more of arrests within the past 5 years had final dispositions recorded. This progress needs to be continued.

Improvements in Federal and State criminal history record systems not only provide critical information as to how criminal justice practices and policies are working and what efficiencies are being achieved, but also serve to ensure that well reasoned responses to crime are developed and that information and technology are enhanced to promote public safety and fairness.

BJS continues to support these improvements. Working together, the Federal and State governments can enhance record systems by ensuring their integrity and usefulness for criminal justice, as well as noncriminal justice, purposes. A national program is now underway, and the support and involvement of all components of the justice system are of the utmost importance.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.
Director

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Criminal History Record Improvement program

Background

Section 6213 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 required the Attorney General to report to Congress by November of 1989 on a system for the immediate and accurate identification of felons who attempt to purchase firearms. A Task Force on Felon Identification in Firearms Sales was established to develop a range of options that would comply with the statute. In October 1989, the Task Force completed its final report and forwarded it to the Attorney General for consideration. The Task Force identified several possible options for systems to identify felons who attempt to purchase firearms, but made no specific recommendations. The report also identified major problems in the quality and completeness of criminal history records and in the ability to identify individuals convicted of felony offenses.

In his report to Congress on November 20, 1989, the Attorney General recommended a four-part program to enhance efforts to stop firearms sales to felons: One recommendation was to use \$9 million of Anti-Drug Abuse Act Discretionary Funds in each of Fiscal Years 1990, 1991, and 1992 (for a \$27 million, 3-year effort) to fund States for purposes that included: achieving compliance with the BJS/Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) voluntary reporting standards and improving the data completeness and quality of State criminal history record information. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) was selected to manage this effort and the Criminal History Record Improvement (CHRI) program was announced in the *Federal Register* May 23, 1990.

Criminal History Record Improvement grant program description

The general purpose of the CHRI program is to make systemic improvements in the quality and timeliness of State criminal history record information throughout the country. Fiscal and technical assistance to States is now available for the following purposes: to identify accurately those individuals convicted of an offense classified as a felony (or equivalent) within the State; to improve reporting of criminal justice actions and dispositions to State criminal history record systems (particularly those arrests and dispositions occurring in the last 5 years); to increase automation of criminal history records at the State level; to meet the voluntary reporting standards of the BJS/FBI; and to make felon conviction information readily available to appropriate Federal and State requesting agencies.

CHRI funds are provided for the following activities:

1. Developing systems and procedures to identify convicted felons through an examination of the subject's automated or manual criminal history record and to include a felony "flag" in criminal history records. Such information will be made available for interstate criminal justice purposes. Emphasis is to be placed on arrests and convictions made within the last 5 years. Convicted felons should be identified on an ongoing basis.
2. Developing programs and procedures to meet the new BJS/FBI voluntary reporting standards for identifying convicted felons, including making such records available to authorized State, local, and Federal criminal justice agencies.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

3. Developing systems and procedures designed to improve reporting to the central repository of all arrests, dispositions, and other related criminal justice information.
4. Ensuring a higher degree of criminal history automation by implementing a State master name index (MNI) or enhancing existing automated MNI's by increasing the number of individuals contained in the index. Funds may also be used to place a felony conviction indicator in the MNI.
5. Ensuring a higher degree of criminal history automation by establishing a computerized criminal history (CCH) record system, increasing the number of individuals recorded in existing systems, and improving the quality and timeliness of criminal history records.
6. Developing procedures to participate in Interstate Identification Index (III) or other FBI "pointer" system programs and thereby facilitate the goals of this program.
7. Conducting a baseline audit of criminal history record systems to assess existing data quality levels, identify problems in the present system, and establish a basis for evaluating the success of a data quality improvement program.
8. Upgrading existing data systems to meet improved data quality requirements by obtaining auxiliary equipment such as disks, printers, and communication lines.
9. Coordinating and interfacing activities under this program with agencies using the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Formula Grant funds for the implementation of the new provisions related to criminal records and reporting to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Recent activities and accomplishments

Voluntary standards

In February 1991, a joint effort by BJS and the FBI resulted in the publication of the *Recommended Voluntary Standards for Improving the Quality of Criminal History Record Information*. These standards are designed to enhance the quality of State records, facilitate the interstate exchange of information, enhance the quality of State records, and permit the identification of felony offenders.

Survey of criminal history systems

BJS published a major comprehensive study, *Survey of Criminal History Information Systems*, in March 1991. The survey includes data from all 50 States and the District of Columbia and reviews the extent to which criminal history records are complete, automated, and available. Among its findings, the survey noted:

- Over 45.6 million subjects (individual offenders) were in State criminal history repository files on December 31, 1989.
- Over 3.5 million final dispositions were reported in 1989 to 34 State criminal history repositories. All but five States reporting data for both 1983 and 1989 showed an increase in the number of final dispositions submitted.
- 60% of the criminal history records maintained by State repositories are automated.
- 41 States and the District of Columbia require courts to report felony dispositions to a repository.

In addition to providing valuable information on the status of criminal record systems, the survey provides the baseline data that will allow a follow-on survey to measure State progress in improving criminal history records.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Data quality conference

In June 1991, BJS and Search Group, Inc. (SGI) cosponsored a National Conference on Improving the Quality of Criminal History Records. Then-Attorney General Thornburgh provided the keynote address, and numerous Department of Justice officials made presentations on such topics as "The Importance of Data Quality for Research and Practice," "Courts and the Importance of Disposition Reporting," and "Successful Data Quality Strategies in the States."

Data quality audits and training

BJS recently published *Assessing Completeness and Accuracy of Criminal History Record Systems: Audit Guide*. This Guide provides assistance to State officials and others in planning and conducting audits to assess the completeness and accuracy of the criminal history record databases maintained by State central repositories. The Guide also helps State repositories to assess compliance by State and local criminal justice agencies with statutory reporting and other legal requirements.

In addition to issuing the audit guide, BJS will conduct a series of seminars on the auditing of criminal history records. The seminars will focus on describing a criminal record, the components of criminal record systems, the management of record information, and how to conduct a data-quality audit of a State repository's centralized criminal record database. The seminars are designed to be of value to representatives of State audit agencies, State central repositories, and State criminal justice planning offices.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Justice Information Policy Assistance

Over 15 years ago, BJS initiated the Justice Information Policy Assistance (JIPA) program. This ongoing program was designed to assist States in upgrading the quality of their criminal history record systems and in addressing the issues which ensure the utility of criminal history records for both criminal and noncriminal justice purposes. The JIPA program also serves as the primary liaison among the States on issues of data quality and criminal record exchange.

Criminal History Record Improvement program evaluation

In order to ensure that the CHRI program is realizing its objectives in the most productive manner, a comprehensive evaluation is being undertaken. The evaluation is designed: (1) to assess the impact of the CHRI program in individual States, particularly regarding the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of criminal history record information in central repositories; (2) to determine the impact on the accurate identification of records containing felony convictions; (3) to determine the impact of meeting the BJS/FBI voluntary reporting standards; and (4) to identify promising approaches to improving data quality that can be utilized by other States.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recently made the award for the evaluation, and initial project activities are underway.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance program

The Crime Control Act of 1990 amended Part E of the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to require that each State that receives Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance formula grant funds allocate at least 5% of its total award for the improvement of criminal justice records. The improvements include the following:

- Completion of criminal histories to include the final dispositions of all arrests for felony offenses
- Full automation of all criminal justice histories and fingerprint records
- Frequency and quality of criminal history reports to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Other innovative uses, such as the development of law enforcement incident-based reporting systems, may be determined by the States. The requirement for the minimum 5% commitment applies to the Federal Fiscal Year 1992 and subsequent formula grant awards. In Fiscal Year 1992, these awards to States for improving their record systems will total more than \$21 million, representing the total minimum amounts at current funding levels that must be committed for this purpose.

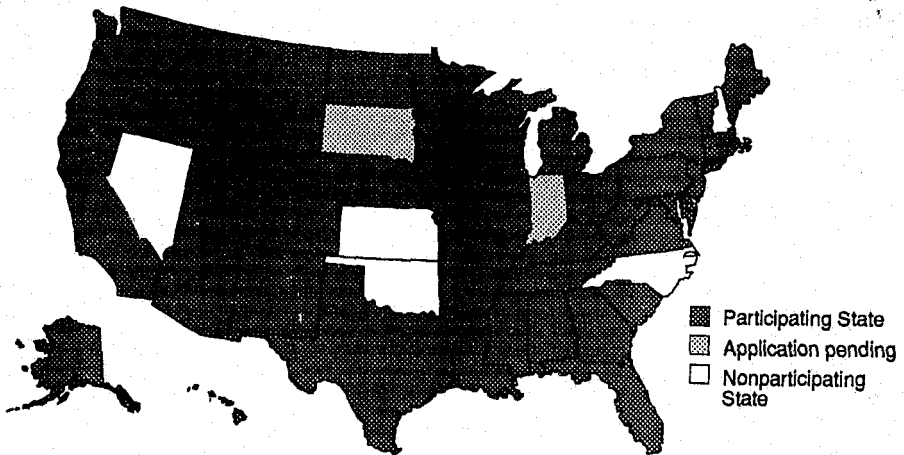
BJA promulgated the *Guidance for the Improvement of Criminal Justice Records, December 10, 1991*. This document contains guidance for the implementation of provisions related to improving criminal justice records and providing records of convicted aliens to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In conjunction with the required annual submission of State strategies for combating drugs and crime, State criminal justice record improvement plans are currently being submitted to BJA for review and approval. This effort is being coordinated with BJS to ensure that record improvement plans are complementary.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Status of the States

February 14, 1992

Participating States represent —
93% of all offender records
87% of U.S. population.



Remaining States are encouraged to participate; additional applications are expected.

Summary of Criminal History Record Improvement program grants to participating States, February 14, 1992

Alabama (1/1/91-5/31/92) — The Criminal Justice Information Center will contract with State courts to obtain missing disposition data from 1988 and will determine procedures and implement changes designed to improve disposition reporting in the future.

Alaska (10/1/90-3/31/92) — Activities conducted by the Department of Public Safety include identifying felony convictions; creating a uniquely numbered multipart form that would replace the current fingerprint card, the District Attorney's SID form, and supplement court disposition documents; meeting minimum standards for FBI III participation; and processing a backlog of 60,000 criminal history records.

American Samoa (10/1/91-9/30/93) — The Department of Public Safety plans to automate criminal history record information currently maintained manually within the Department. Funds will be used to perform a baseline audit, to procure and install computer hardware, to convert data, and to evaluate the project.

Arizona (9/1/91-8/31/92) — A CHRI baseline audit, as well as a needs assessment, will be conducted by the Department of Public Safety to determine system enhancements needed to identify convicted felons and system modifications necessary to allow access to the information. A backlog of 95,000 dispositions will be cleared, and a multiagency task force will be created to assist in planning.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Arkansas (10/1/90-3/31/92) — The Crime Information Center plans to process a backlog of over 70,000 arrests made within the last 5 years which do not contain disposition information. Using State funds, Arkansas implemented a new computerized criminal history system designed to capture arrest and disposition data from courts and law enforcement agencies.

California (3/19/91-3/14/93) — The Criminal Identification and Information Branch of the Department of Justice will establish internal and external advisory committees and develop an implementation plan for improving the quality of the California Automated Criminal History System.

Colorado (11/1/90-3/31/92) — The Bureau of Identification is utilizing grant funds to develop procedures designed to accurately identify persons convicted of at least one felony, meet the BJS/FBI voluntary reporting standards, and identify impediments and improve final charge disposition reporting.

Connecticut (10/1/91-9/30/92) — Funds will allow the Connecticut Department of Public Safety to improve the quality and timeliness of criminal history records. Project activities will include upgrading telecommunications links between State police and courts and improving the reporting by local law enforcement of fingerprintable arrests.

Delaware (10/1/90-3/31/92) — As part of a coordinated proposal, Delaware's Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis will complete their statewide MNI, eliminate a backlog of disposition data, and develop a real-time State system which will ensure future data quality and timeliness of criminal justice information.

District of Columbia (10/1/90-9/30/92) — The Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis will design and implement an electronic interface with existing automated metropolitan and regional criminal justice agency databases to create a comprehensive computerized criminal history record system.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Florida (11/1/90-6/30/92) — The Department of Law Enforcement will eliminate a backlog of disposition data and fingerprint arrest records, and will implement a felony flag indicator in their automated files. Additionally, the Office of State Courts Administrator plans to implement a model integrated criminal justice information system for a judicial circuit.

Georgia (10/1/90-9/30/92) — A major 12-month effort will allow the Bureau of Investigation to eliminate a backlog of 348,000 fingerprint cards and disposition reports. The Administrative Office of the Courts will develop an automated case disposition transmission system to allow Georgia courts to immediately send felony status and sentence information to both the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Georgia Crime Information Center.

Hawaii (9/30/90-9/30/92) — Activities conducted by the Department of the Attorney General include a data quality audit, developing a two-way interface with Judiciary's Circuit Court felony system, reducing a backlog of delinquent dispositions, and flagging convicted felons.

Idaho (3/15/91-6/9/92) — The Criminal Identification Bureau of the Department of Law Enforcement will implement an automated court disposition reporting system, reduce a backlog of arrest and disposition documents, conduct a baseline audit, and flag convicted felons.

Illinois (9/1/91-11/30/92) — Funds will be used by the State Police to improve the quality and timeliness of criminal history record information maintained in the State repository. Major objectives are to enhance the State's ability to accurately identify convicted felons and comply with the BJS/FBI voluntary reporting standards.

Iowa (10/1/90-6/30/92) — Primary activities of the Department of Public Safety consist of developing systems to electronically extract and interface corrections and court data for improved CCH records.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Kentucky (8/01/91-7/31/92) — The Justice Cabinet is engaged in installing computer interfaces from the local circuit courts to permit the immediate reporting of felony dispositions to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Each court will receive a file server (for multiterminal access within the court), a printer, a backup system, and a modem.

Louisiana (10/01/91-6/30/92) — Funding will allow the Commission on Law Enforcement to undertake a 9-month requirements analysis to determine what improvements need to be made to existing criminal history files. Once set, and approved by the State, this plan will be used as the basis for further criminal history record improvement.

Maine (10/1/90-9/30/92) — The Department of Public Safety will design, develop, and implement an automated criminal history system within the State which will replace the existing manual records structure.

Maryland (9/1/90-3/31/92) — Primary focuses of the Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis are development and implementation of a "live scan" booking system that will eventually be placed in every agency with responsibility for arrest processing. Automated systems will be developed to electronically interface such a booking system with State criminal history information.

Massachusetts (11/1/90-6/30/92) — The Criminal History Systems Board will use funds to complete the work required to tie the State's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to offender disposition data to create a computerized criminal history system that meets State and BJS/FBI needs and requirements.

Michigan (7/01/91-10/1/92) — Improving the completeness and accuracy of their CHRI will be accomplished by the Michigan State Police (MSP) by improving the quality and completeness of disposition reporting. Efforts will include identifying and entering missing disposition data from county courts and developing an electronic system to enter dispositions directly from the courts into the MSP criminal history files.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Minnesota (9/1/91-8/31/92) — The Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension plans a multiphase approach to improving the State's criminal history system. They will conduct a baseline audit of the current criminal records system, while also undertaking improvement in the system identified by the State's Criminal Justice Data Group. In addition to the audit, the Bureau will develop systems and procedures to identify felons, improve reporting from law enforcement, and increase the degree of automated interface with courts and corrections agencies.

Mississippi (1/1/92-9/30/92) — The Department of Public Safety will implement procedures to comply with the BJS/FBI voluntary reporting standards and work with local police chiefs, sheriffs, courts, district attorneys, and the State Department of Corrections to develop a detailed criminal history recordkeeping improvement plan. This plan will evaluate the current status of data quality and establish improvement specifications.

Missouri (3/1/91-6/30/92) — Funding will allow the State Highway Patrol to identify convicted felons, improve CCH, participate in the FBI III program and meet BJS/FBI standards. With the Office of Prosecution Services, they will develop an automated interface to receive disposition data.

Montana (10/1/90-4/30/92) — The Department of Justice intends to implement a statewide numbering system, establish a requirement that judges use state ID arrest number, achieve 90% compliance with fingerprint card submission, achieve 85% disposition reporting, begin auditing submission rates, and flag convicted felons.

Nebraska (10/1/91-6/30/92) — An audit of criminal history records and a detailed requirements analysis will be conducted for the first time by the State Patrol. Procedures will also be developed to identify and flag convicted felons in existing and new databases.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

New Jersey (10/1/90-2/29/92)—The Department of Law and Public Safety will rewrite its computerized criminal history system to allow an automated interface with a new system to be developed by the courts. This program will enable reporting of dispositions and other criminal justice actions to the State repository.

New Mexico (10/1/91-3/31/93)—Assistance in establishing a Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system which will interface with the existing MNI is the focus of funding to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Additional purposes include increasing the number of case dispositions reported to DPS, creating a felony flag, and establishing an AFIS database for use by DPS.

New York (10/1/90-8/31/92)—The Division of Criminal Justice Services will conduct an analysis of the basic causes of underreporting of disposition and other data to the central repository. Also, a collection unit will be established to increase disposition reporting from known delinquent agencies.

North Dakota (3/1/91-2/28/94)—Using State funds, North Dakota implemented CCH in 1988. Operational experience has identified areas of needed improvement. CHRI funds will be used to identify felons, link final dispositions to charges, and implement systems to increase arrest and disposition reporting.

Ohio (10/1/91-9/30/92)—The Office of the Attorney General will improve the quality and completeness of criminal history records by increasing the number of disposition cycles reported by agencies at the local level, eliminating a backlog of dispositions, and increasing the accuracy and timeliness of reporting throughout the system.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Oregon (10/1/90-3/31/92) — A linkage between the Oregon Judicial Information Network and the State Law Enforcement Data System will be developed. The Executive Department also will reduce a disposition backlog of 32,000 dispositions, flag convicted felons, and monitor the status of rejected fingerprint cards.

Pennsylvania (3/1/91-2/29/92) — The Pennsylvania State Police will improve criminal history records by adding a felon identifier, increasing the number of arrests entered into the computerized data base, improving the reporting of court dispositions, and conducting an audit to identify additional problems.

Rhode Island (9/1/91-8/31/92) — Improvements in the quality and completeness of criminal history records will be made by the Office of the Attorney General. A series of tasks will be performed over a 12-month period to improve fingerprint reporting, enter a felony flag for convicted felons, improve the inquiry methodology for criminal history records, and audit disposition data on an ongoing basis.

South Carolina (9/01/91-8/31/92) — The goals of the Law Enforcement Division include establishing a felony flag, reducing a 12-month backlog of dispositions being held at the repository, and improving the automated interface between the courts and the central repository.

Tennessee (3/1/92-6/30/93) — The Bureau of Investigation plans to begin automation of its criminal history file by reducing a 5-year backlog of dispositions to initiate a pilot project with local court clerks to automate disposition reporting, and to meet the BJS/FBI voluntary reporting standards. The project also will report data on aliens to INS.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Texas (11/1/90-2/29/92) — The major effort of the Criminal Justice Policy Council is to develop software and hardware designed to interface computerized criminal history records with county court automated systems for the electronic exchange of disposition reports.

Utah (12/1/90-11/30/92) — The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice will implement procedures to eliminate loss of data moving between criminal justice agencies, routinely obtain prosecution declinations, install systems to improve court data reporting, identify convicted felons, and improve the flow of information from the State Department of Corrections.

Vermont (10/1/91-9/30/93) — Efforts will be made to improve the criminal history record system in the State of Vermont. State criminal history records are currently manual. This award to the State Police will support the purchase of computer hardware in order to establish an automated capability for the creation and transmission of criminal history files electronically.

Virginia (9/1/91-8/31/92) — In coordination with the State Police and the Virginia Supreme Court, the Department of Criminal Justice Services will improve the existing automated disposition reporting system, establish an optical scanner interface between local courts and the central repository, reduce the existing backlog, modify software to create a felony flag, and extract Offender-Based Transactions Statistics (OBTS) data.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Washington (10/1/90-9/30/92) — An initial 12-month effort by the State Patrol will identify felony convictions, eliminate a disposition backlog, increase training in State and Federal reporting, and develop a detailed implementation plan. Subsequent tasks include improving the computerized criminal history record system, meeting voluntary reporting standards of the BJS/FBI, participating in the FBI's III program, improving support for the Identification Division, and initiating a pilot electronic arrest project and an electronic disposition reporting project.

West Virginia (10/1/90-5/31/92) — With no existing automated system, the West Virginia Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis conducted a needs analysis and produced a system design report. These will lead to the development of a computerized criminal history system.

Wisconsin (10/1/90-1/31/94) — Activities conducted by the Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis include reducing a backlog of disposition reports and FBI identification data, developing a "tickler" system to monitor the submission of dispositions, and providing an interface between two automated files to identify convicted felons.

Wyoming (10/1/91-9/30/92) — The Division of Criminal Investigation's goal of an enhanced criminal history repository will be realized by automating 7,800 manual arrest records, modifying programs to identify felons, and installing 13 network controllers statewide.

Total amount awarded
through February 14, 1992: **\$16,220,798**

Criminal History Record Improvement program

State participation in federally funded Criminal History Record Improvement program activities

State	Activities supported by Federal funding					Backlog reduction/ data conversion
	Identify felons	Meet FBI standards/ participate in III ¹	Improve reporting/ MNI ²	Establish/ add to CCH ³	Purchase equipment	
Alabama			X		X	X
Alaska	X	X	X	X		X
American Samoa			X	X	X	X
Arizona		X	X			X
Arkansas				X		X
California	X					X
Colorado			X		X	X
Connecticut			X		X	X
Delaware			X	X		X
District of Columbia				X	X	
Florida	X	X	X		X	X
Georgia		X	X	X		X
Hawaii			X	X		X
Idaho	X		X		X	X
Illinois	X	X	X			
Iowa	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kentucky	X	X			X	
Louisiana		X	X			
Maine			X	X	X	
Maryland	X	X	X	X		
Massachusetts		X		X	X	X
Michigan			X		X	X
Minnesota	X		X	X	X	X
Mississippi		X				
Missouri	X	X	X		X	X

Criminal History Record Improvement program

State	Activities supported by Federal funding					Backlog reduction/ data conversion
	Identify felons	Meet FBI standards/ participate in III ¹	Improve reporting/ MNI ²	Establish/ add to CCH ³	Purchase equipment	
Montana			X		X	X
Nebraska	X			X		X
New Jersey		X				X
New Mexico	X	X	X	X	X	
New York		X	X		X	
North Dakota	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio			X		X	X
Oregon	X		X		X	X
Pennsylvania	X	X	X			X
Rhode Island	X		X		X	X
South Carolina			X		X	X
Tennessee			X	X	X	X
Texas			X	X	X	
Utah	X		X		X	
Vermont	X	X	X		X	X
Virginia	X	X	X		X	X
Washington	X	X		X	X	X
West Virginia				X		
Wisconsin	X		X			X
Wyoming	X		X		X	X
Summary	22	20	35	19	29	33
Percent of States ⁴	49%	44%	78%	42%	64%	73%

Note: Table does not include activities supported with State resources only.

¹III = Interstate Identification Index

²MNI = Master Name Index

³CCH = Computerized Criminal History

⁴Based on 43 States, District of Columbia, and American Samoa

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Sources for additional information

Additional information about this national program may be found in the recently published *BJS Application Information: Fiscal Year 1992 Programs*. In addition to the 45 states now receiving CHRI grant awards, a number of States are receiving followup grant awards, and still other States are in the application process. For BJS publications on this topic please contact:

Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse
National Criminal Justice Reference Service
Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850
1-800-732-3277 (local 301-251-5500)

For direct assistance and information please contact:

S.S. Ashton, Jr., Assistant Director, BJS: 202-307-0770.

Criminal History Record Improvement program

Criminal History Record Improvement program-related documents:

Bureau of Justice Statistics application information: Fiscal year 1992 programs, March 1992, NCJ-134644

Assessing completeness and accuracy of criminal history record systems: Audit guide, January 1992, NCJ-133651

National Conference on Improving the Quality of Criminal History Records: Proceedings of a BJS/SEARCH conference, January 1992, NCJ-133532

Bureau of Justice Assistance: Guidance for the improvement of criminal justice records, December 10, 1991, NCJ-133015

"BJA discretionary grant announcement for the evaluation of the Criminal History Records Information program," *Federal Register*, August 30, 1991

Statutes requiring the use of Criminal History Record Information, June 1991, NCJ-129896

Attorney General's program for improving the Nation's criminal history records and identifying felons who attempt to purchase firearms: Overview, March 1991, NCJ-128131

Survey of criminal history information systems, March 1991, NCJ-125620

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Criminal History Record Improvement program

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