Criminal Justice Data Dashboard

Online dashboard: <https://www.njoag.gov/justicedata/>

The New Jersey Legislature enacted a law requiring the Attorney General to “establish a program to collect, record, and analyze data” regarding defendants in the State’s criminal justice system, including all aspects of a defendant’s passage through the justice system, from arrest to prosecution to release from custody. N.J.S.A. 52:17B-111.1(1)(a)

Data will include the following data elements for adult defendants (eighteen and older) arrested for alleged indictable offense(s):

* Warrants, arrests, charges, filing of criminal complaints, and indictments;
* Dismissed charges;
* The disposition of cases, including convictions;
* Court fees and fines ordered; and
* Restitution amounts ordered.

This consolidation of this data was born out of collaboration between the Office of the Attorney General, New Jersey Courts, the Department of Corrections, the State Parole Board, the New Jersey State Police, and Rutgers University.

**Note**: The data in both the Chapter 120 Dashboard and the Download File are de-identified, meaning the identity of each person has been removed and anonymized.

# Data Files

The raw data of the dashboards is provided in the following tables: Defendant Charges, Incarcerated Defendants, and Fines, Fees, and Restitution. The Defendant Charges file is broken down by year due to size. The files can be linked by the “ID” field.

### Defendant Charges

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | **Description** | |
| ID | An anonymized unique identifier for defendants | |
| County | County of arrest | |
| Arrest Year | Year of arrest | |
| Arrest Month | Month of arrest | |
| Race | Reflects information recorded at the time of initial arrest (see below for note on ethnicity) | |
| Age Range | Age at the time of arrest | |
| Gender | Reflects information recorded at the time of initial arrest | |
| Offense Statute | The charges listed for each defendant | |
| Offense Category | The charges listed for each defendant | |
| Arrest source | Summons | A Complaint-Summons gives notice to a defendant that they have been charged with an offense and the requirement that they appear in court at a specified time and place. A Complaint-Summons is issued for most criminal charges in New Jersey. |
| Arrest source | Warrant | A Complaint-Warrant is issued for more serious criminal charges and violations of prior court orders. Once signed by a judge, a Complaint-Warrant provides law enforcement the legal permission to detain a person. |
| Arrest source | Other | Instances where the information available about the charging document does not readily identify it as a complaint-summons or complaint-warrant will be identified manually over time. |
| Status | Guilty | A guilty outcome can be the result of a guilty plea or a guilty verdict. A Guilty Plea occurs when a criminal defendant does not contest the charge. A Guilty Verdict occurs when a jury has deliberated and voted to convict the defendant of the crime charged at the conclusion of a trial. |
| Status | Municipal Court | An outcome labeled Municipal Court represents a charge sent to municipal court for resolution. Municipal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction, having responsibility for offenses such as motor vehicle and parking tickets, minor criminal offenses, and municipal ordinance violations. |
| Status | Not Guilty | A not guilty outcome occurs when a jury has deliberated and voted not to convict the defendant of the crime charged at the conclusion of a trial. |
| Status | Pending | A pending case is one in which a final judgement has not been entered. |
| Status | Dismissal | A dismissal is a resolution whereby a charge is removed from the case. An individual charge can be removed at any time for a variety of reasons. |

### Fines, Fees, and Restitution

Fines, fees, and restitution amounts are determined at sentencing. In New Jersey, individuals convicted of a crime may be subject to fines or fees, or restitution that is owed to the crime victim (or his relations). Fines and fees may be determined statutorily, or may be set by a judge at sentencing.

A defendant may have multiple arrest events or charges and these events may be grouped in one sentencing date or handled separately. The data depicted in the Chapter 120 Dashboard and Download File are grouped by internal case numbers for a specific defendant on a specific sentencing date. Therefore, a given sentence date for an individual may include fines, fees, and/or restitution stemming from the same or multiple arrests or charging events. Additionally, an individual defendant is re-sentenced, unpaid fines, fees and/or restitution are copied from a previous sentence or sentences and any new financial amounts are added. Thus, the information displayed within this file includes the fines/fees/restitution for the latest sentencing date within a specific court case, but that information may be inclusive of amounts that were listed in previous sentencing dates, and may include fines, fees, and/or restitution linked to multiple arrests or charging events.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | **Description** |
| ID | An anonymized unique identifier for defendants |
| Auto Theft Fine | The Auto Theft Fine is assessed when a person convicted of an offense involving the theft or unlawful taking of a motor vehicle is subject to a monetary penalty of $500 for a first offense, $750 for a second offense, and $1,000 for a third or subsequent offense. |
| Diversionary Program Fee | The Diversionary Program Fee is a $75 application fee for consideration in a diversionary program. |
| Drug Abuse Education Fund Fine | The Drug Abuse Education Fund Fine is assessed when a person convicted of an offense defined in Chapter 35 or 36 of Title 2C of the New Jersey is subject to a monetary penalty of $50 for each conviction. |
| Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund Fine | The Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund Fine (LEOTEF) is assessed when a person convicted of a crime is subject to a monetary penalty of $30 which provides funds for the work of law enforcement. |
| Safe Neighborhood Services Fund | The Safe Neighborhood Services Fund Fine is assessed when a person convicted of violating N.J.S.A. 39:4-50 is subject to a monetary penalty of $75 for each conviction which provides funds for community law enforcement programs. |
| Drug Enforcement Rehab Fine | The Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Penalty Fine (DEDR) is assessed when a person convicted of an offense defined in Chapter 35 or 36 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes is subject to a monetary penalty between $500 to $3000 for each conviction which provides funds for local rehabilitation programs and educational services. |
| Forensic Lab Fee | The Forensic Lab Fee is assessed when a person convicted of a crime is subject to a fee of $50 which provides funds for county and state crime laboratories. |
| Violent Crime Program Fee | The Violent Crime Program Fee (VCCO) provides funds to cover claims made by crime victims. |
| Automation Fee | The Automation Fee provides funds for the computerization of the New Jersey Courts. |
| Municipal Court Fines Fees | The Municipal Court fee is assessed when a person convicted of a criminal offense in Municipal Court is subject to a fee of no more than $33. |
| Restitution | Reflects the restitution ordered. Restitution is the repayment for losses and expenses resulting from a crime to the victim or family of a victim. |

### Incarcerated Defendants

This table includes only defendants that have been incarcerated.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | **Description** |
| ID | An anonymized unique identifier for defendants |
| Incarcerated | Yes |

# Census Data

The 2020 Census data were obtained directly from the Census Bureau: [Click here for Census Data](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0400000US34%240600000&y=2020&d=DEC%20Redistricting%20Data%20%28PL%2094-171%29&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P2)

# Data Notes

The data originate from a LiveScan (electronic fingerprint) of individuals arrested for an indictable, fingerprintable offense only. All individuals arrested for an indictable offense in New Jersey are included, displayed by county of arrest regardless of residence.

As the case is processed, updates are made into the database until the case reaches a conclusion—release from the criminal justice system or transfer to another agency, such as the Department of Corrections. The data files are in active development and will be updated and modified as additional data are available.

* Is this data the same as the Uniform Crime Report?

No. The Uniform Crime Report focuses on arrests cleared. Agencies report information based on the most serious offense for events that have reached a conclusion.

The data here include all persons arrested and fingerprinted for an indictable offense. Charge level information includes ALL charges for each arrest, rather than only the most serious. The data also include cases currently in progress, including those that may subsequently be dismissed or dropped.

* Can I find information on a specific person?

No. The data here are de-identified—the identity of each person has been anonymized.

* Are expunged arrests included?

No. When an arrest is expunged, the record no longer exists. For this reason, as expungements are processed, the volume of arrests, charges, and defendants can change.

* Is there information on race and ethnicity?

Yes and no. The data can be broken down by race but not ethnicity at this time. This means that individuals of Hispanic ethnicity cannot be separated out in the data and are included in the racial category of the individual (White, Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaska Native), according to specifications required for federal criminal history databases.