RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARCHIVES: EXPANDING ACCESS TO HISTORICAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

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coding it forward >

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BACKGROUND: PROGRAM

- Criminal Justice Employment and Expenditure Extract Series (CJEE).
  - Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).
  - Census as data provider since the 1970s.
- Criminal justice data for policy research.

| Chartbook | THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS | Jan 2021 |

Local Spending on Jails Tops $25 Billion in Latest Nationwide Data

Costs increased despite falling crime and fewer people being admitted to jail

JUSTICE EXPENDITURE AND EMPLOYMENT TOOL (JEET)

Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the views of the U.S. Census Bureau.

BACKGROUND: DATA

Criminal Justice Activities

- **Corrections**: probation, parole, prisons, and other correctional facilities.
- **Judicial and Legal**: courts, sentencing, and public defense.
- **Police Protection**: sworn and unsworn officers, patrols and communications, and crime prevention.

Individual Units

- Criminal justice and supplemental data for **select individual governments**.
- All 50 states.
- Cities with 2020 population > 300,000.
- Counties with 2020 population > 500,000.
- Updated list of certainty units following each decennial census.

Aggregated Units

- Criminal justice and supplemental data for **federal, state, and local governments**.
- Includes local governments by type (county, municipality, and/or township).

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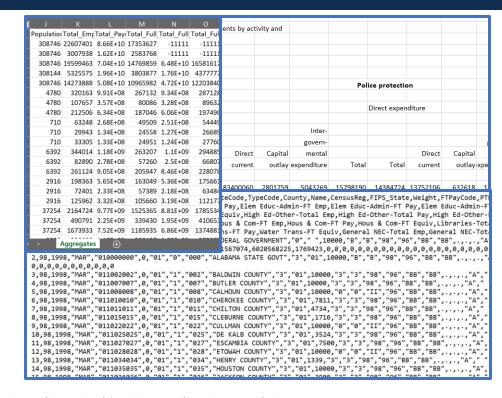- Updated list of certainty units following each decennial census.

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BACKGROUND: PROBLEM

Over **40 years** of Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) data is disconnected and thus not conducive to policy research.

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE

Immediate Goals

- Generate **output scripts** for BJS reports by migrating historical data.
- Update **Flask application** for future data migrations.
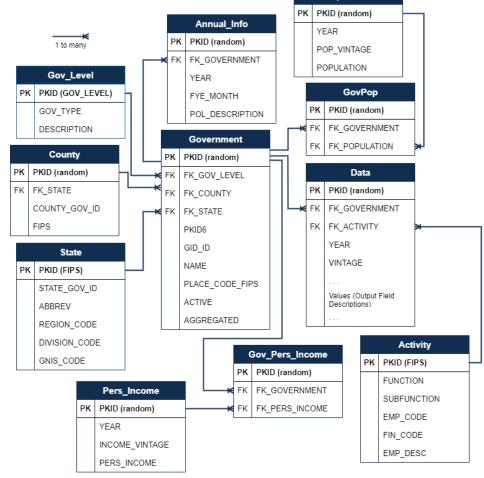- Organize a cohesive, **accessible CJEE database**.

Longterm Goals

- Develop more **abstract classes** for ease of future scripts.
- Create **instructions** for using current code structure to **migrate new data types**.
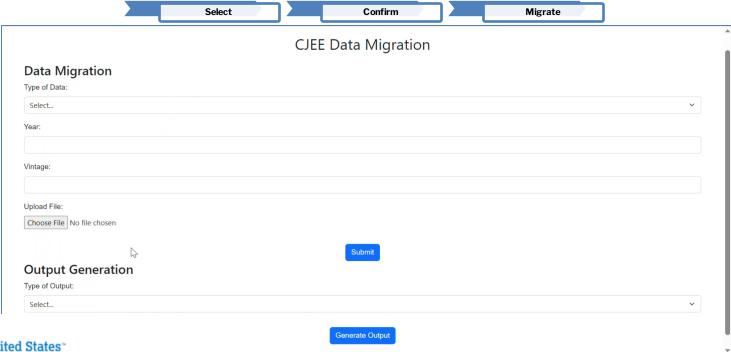
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DATABASE SCHEMA

GENERAL STEPS

79 Fragmented Files

>> Flask App

SQLite Python GitLab

FLASK APPLICATION

PROJECT IMPACT

79 Files Existed

40+ Years of Data Migrated

12 Classes Created

2 Weeks Saved Annually

36 Issues Resolved

~120K Records Inserted

~40K Records Updated

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Expanded Utility
- Robust testing
- Flask application
- Code aggregation
- Flask Application Instructions

Generalization
- Code aggregation
- Flask Application Instructions

Future Usage
- Git Command Guide
- General Coding Guidelines
- Introduction to the Database

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THANK YOU!