IMMIGRATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER, 2012 – 2022

Bureau of Justice Statistics | Judicial Statistics Unit

Charles Costanzo, Data Analyst Fellow | *The Pennsylvania State University, Ph.D. in Statistics*

Keywords:

statistics, criminal justice, immigration, law enforcement, Southwest border

Summary:

To further BJS's goal of publishing **critical**, **timely**, and **high-impact statistical information** necessary for development and implementation of criminal justice policies and programs, Charles worked with BJS's Judicial Statistics Unit to develop a short *Just the Stats* web report on immigration and law enforcement trends at the Southwest U.S.-Mexico border. Integrating previously unreleased data from BJS's Federal Justice Statistics Program and public data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Homeland Security, Charles utilized **R** and **R Markdown** software to create **interactive maps** and **data visualizations** of important trends over the last decade, highlight key findings and statistics, and embed publicly accessible, downloadable datasets in the report. Charles's report will be the first in the *Just the Stats* series to cover immigration.

Immigration and Law Enforcement Trends at the Southwest Border, 2012 - 2022

Judicial Statistics Unit
Bureau of Justice Statistics
George “Ebo” Browne, Ph.D. — Statistician

coding it forward >

BJS

CHARLES COSTANZO
The Pennsylvania State University
Ph.D. in Statistics

THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (BJS)

- **Primary statistical agency** of the Department of Justice.

- One of **thirteen** principal federal statistical agencies.

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The mission of BJS is to **collect**, **analyze**, **publish**, and **disseminate**, information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.

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THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (BJS)

- **Best known** for the **National Crime Victimization Survey**.

- **Other research areas**:
  - Law enforcement
  - Courts
  - Corrections
  - Special Topic Areas

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BJS STRATEGIC PLAN, FY 2024-2029

MY WORK AT BJS

The Judicial Statistics Unit

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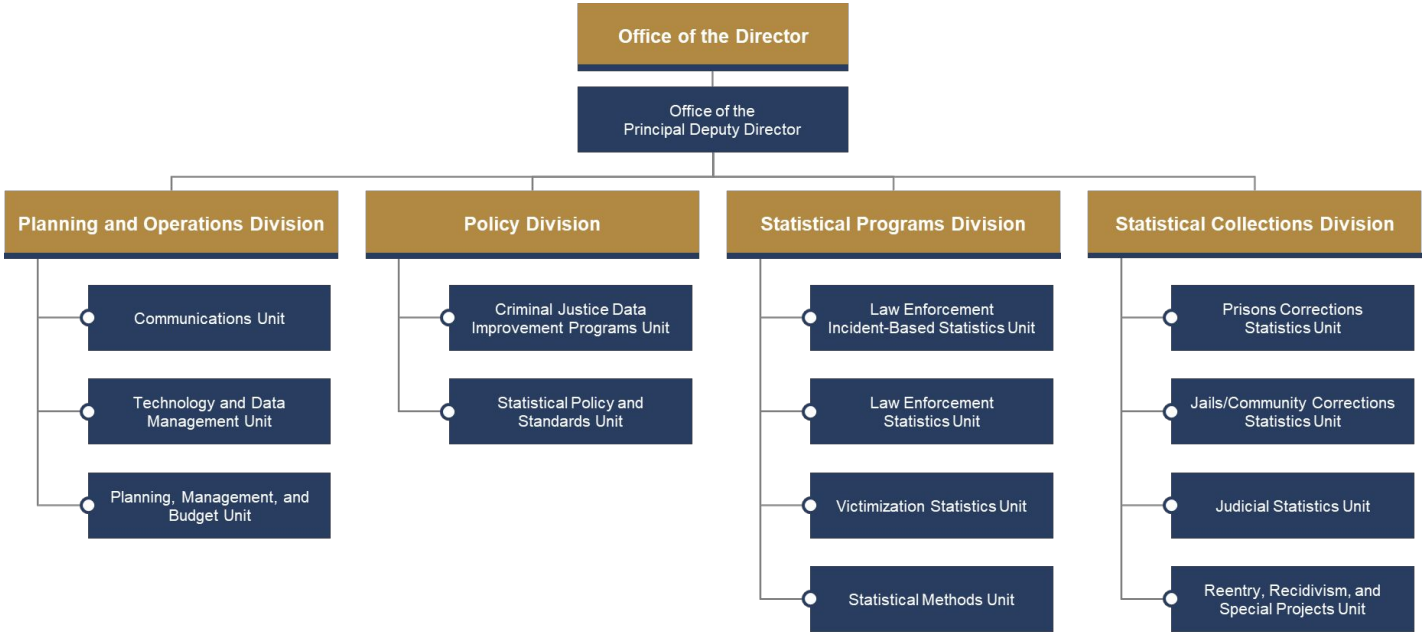
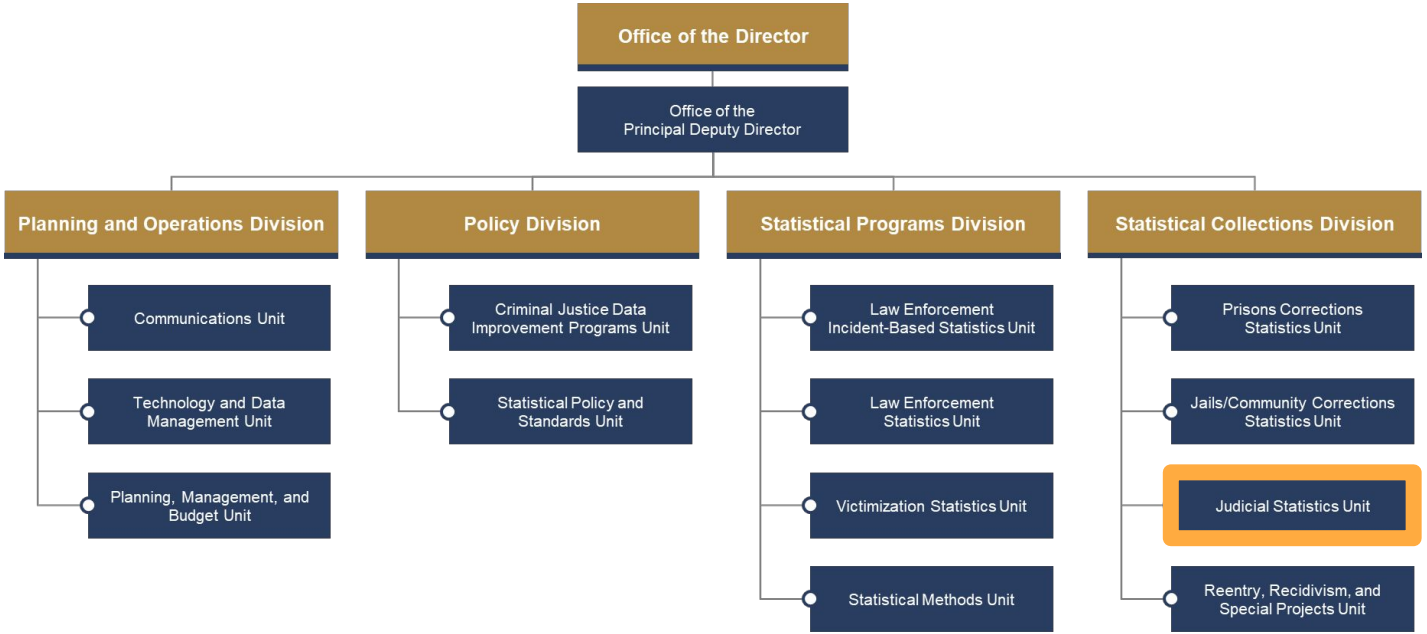
BJS ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



THE JUDICIAL STATISTICS UNIT (JSU)



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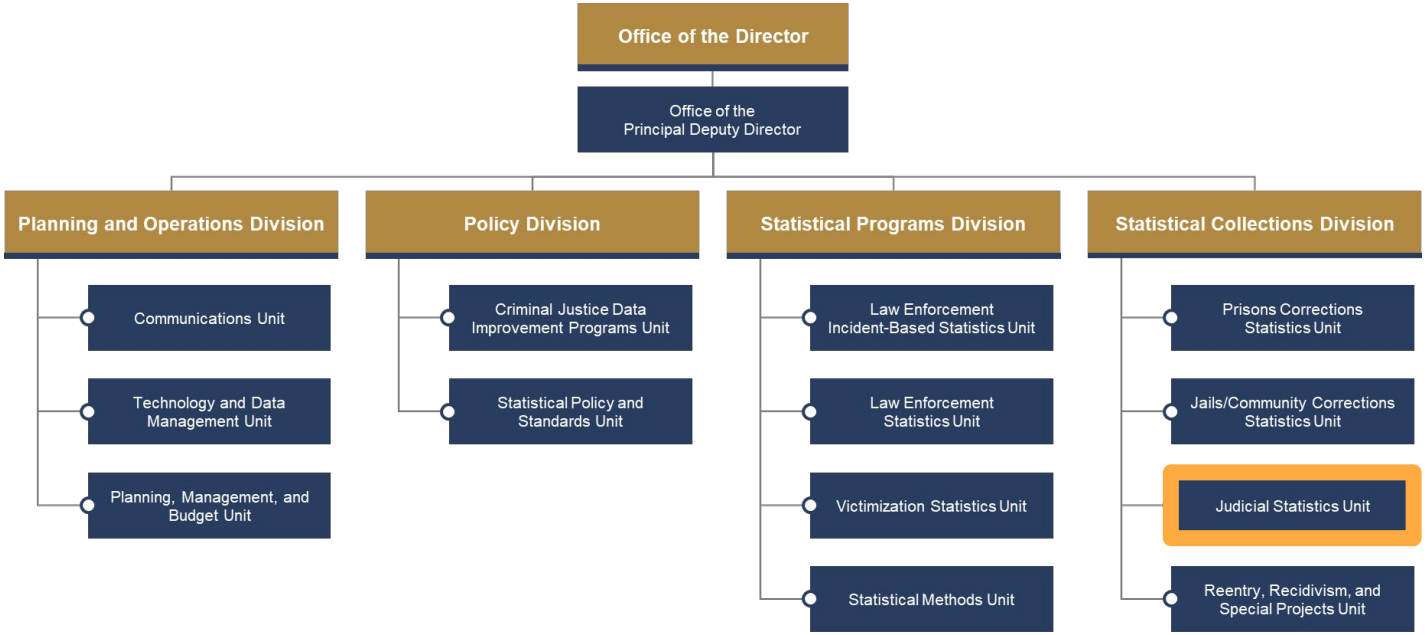
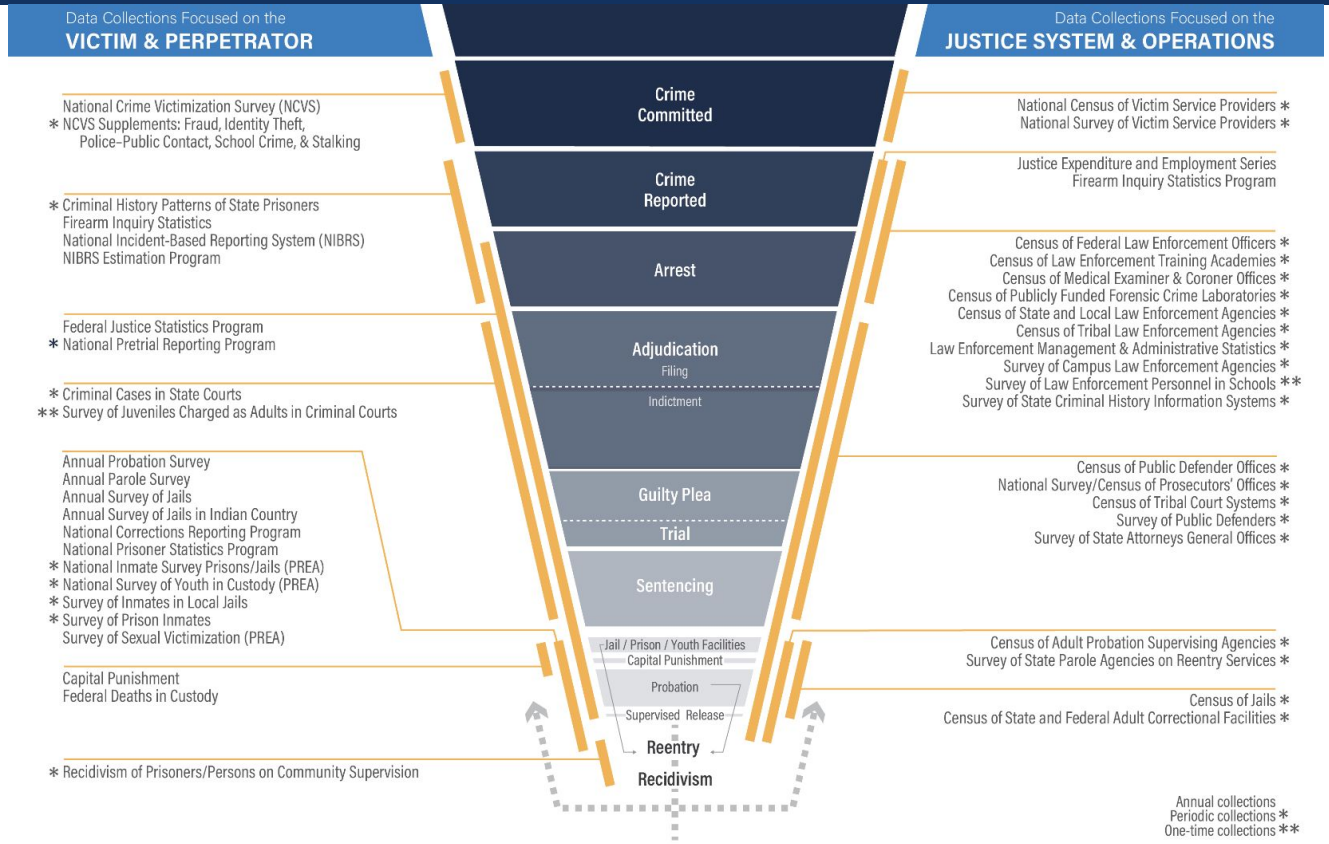


- Studies **courts** and the **federal criminal justice system**.

MY PROJECTS WITH JSU



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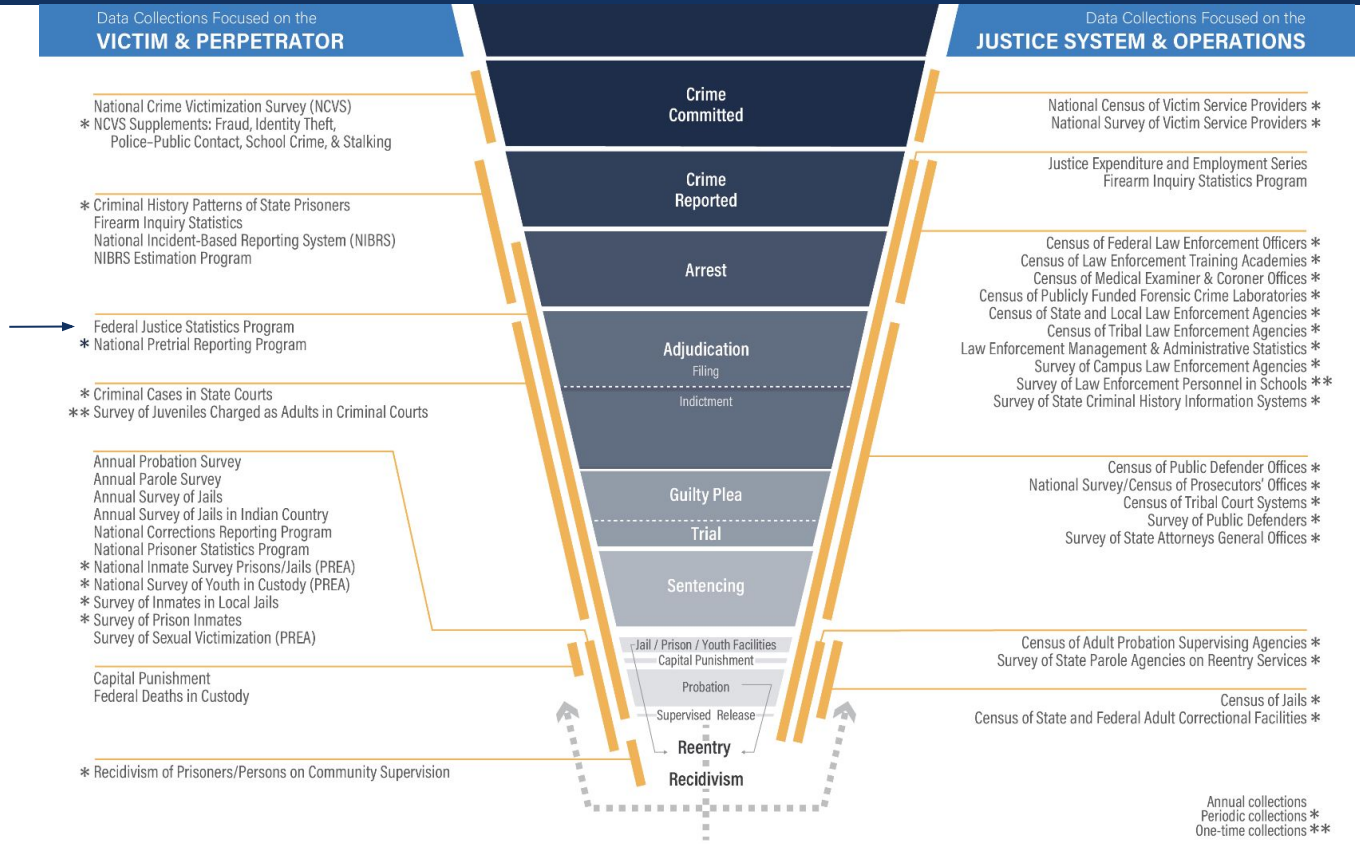

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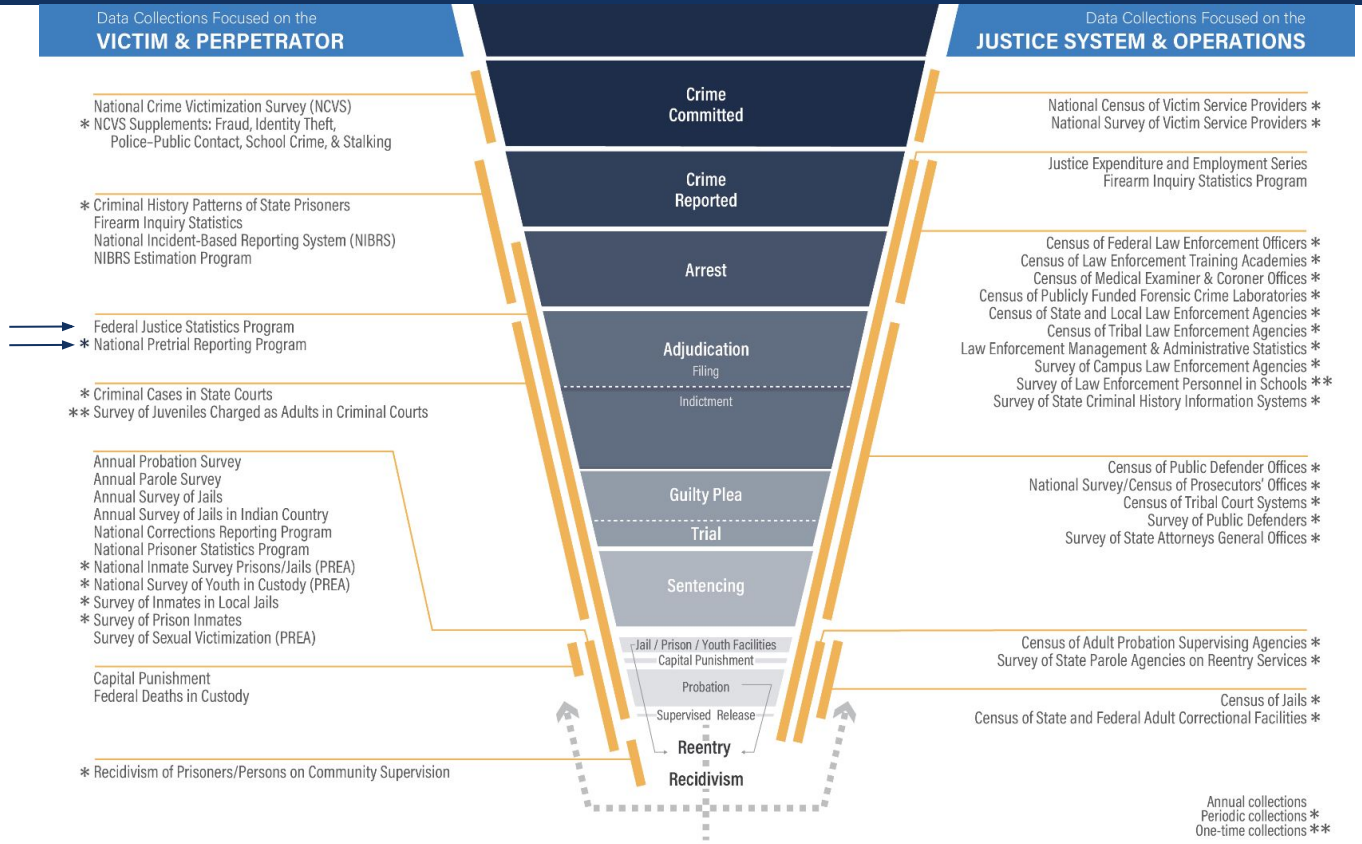

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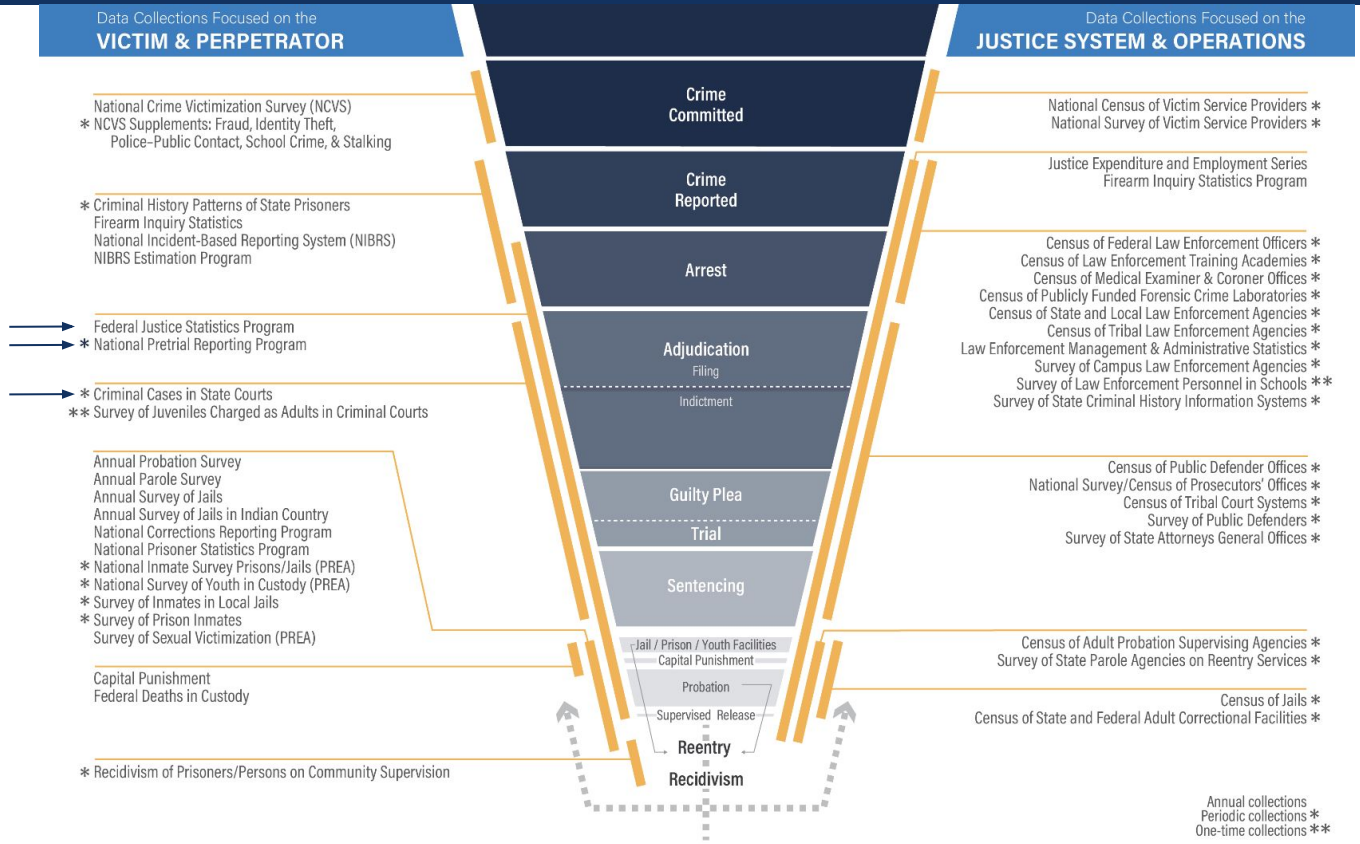

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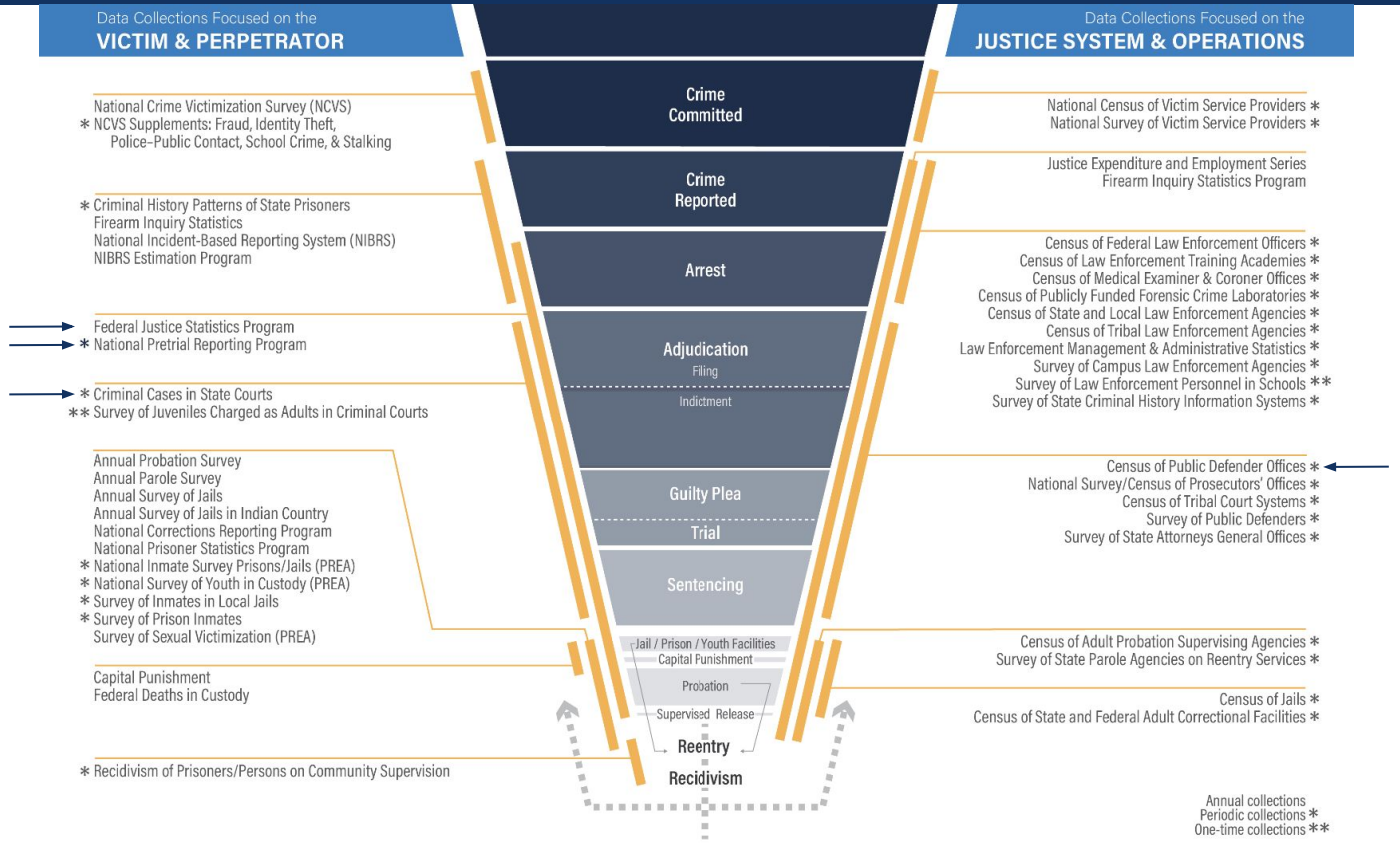

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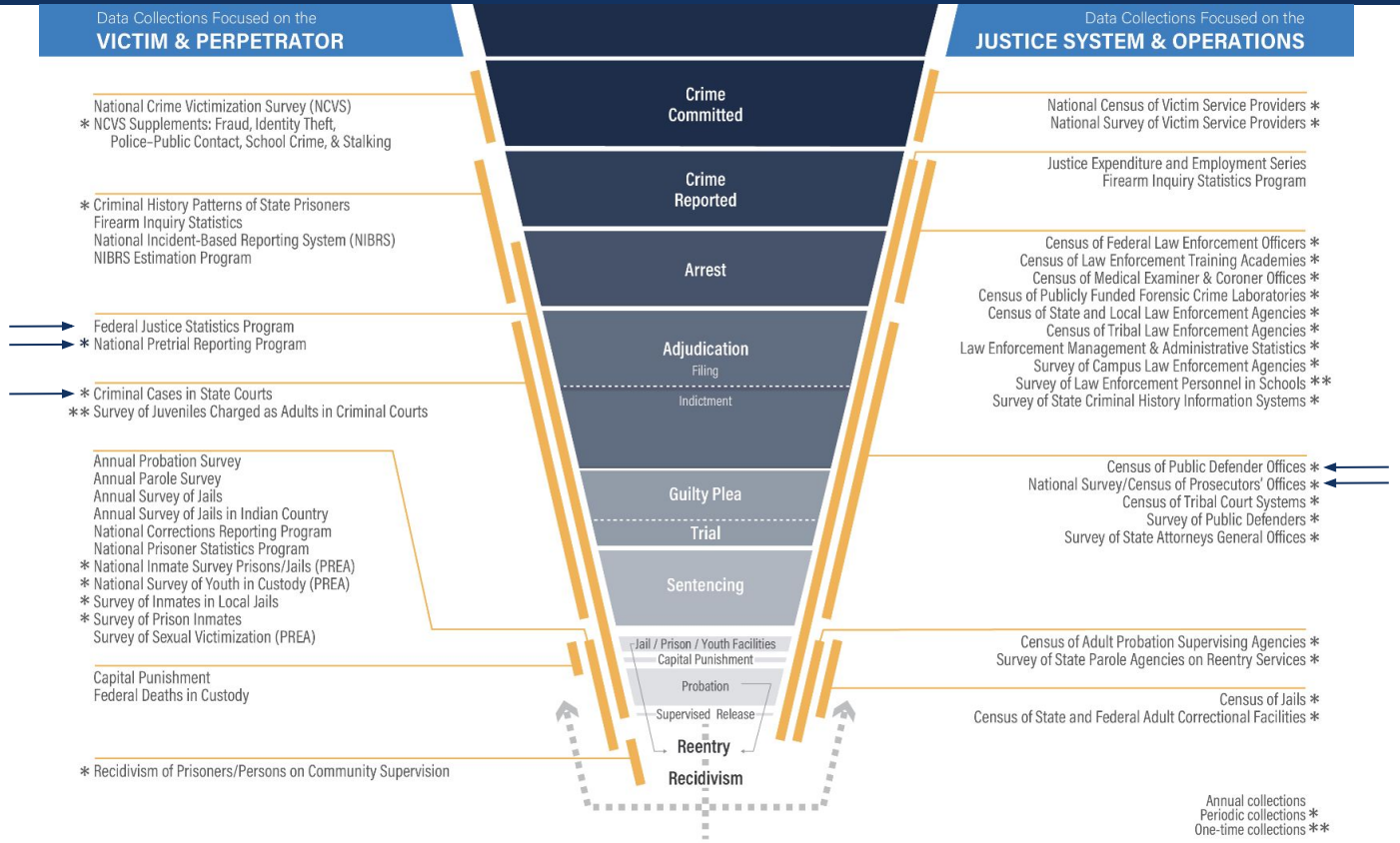

MY WORK WITH JSU

- Collaborated with BJS **contractors** and met with **stakeholders**.

- National Pretrial Reporting Program **data collection outreach**:
  - Samples **125** of the **top 200** most populous U.S. counties.
  - **375** total agencies sampled:
    - Courts
    - Jails
    - Pretrial service agencies

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MY WORK WITH JSU

- Criminal Cases in State Courts **data analysis** and **reporting**.
  - First data collection on felony cases in state courts since 2006.
  - Expands previous collections by including misdemeanor cases.

- Federal Justice Statistics Program ***Just the Stats* web report**.
  - Immigration and law enforcement at the Southwest border.

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FEDERAL JUSTICE STATISTICS PROGRAM (FJSP)

- The FJSP collects, standardizes, and reports on administrative data received from **six federal justice agencies**:
  - U.S. Marshals Service
  - Drug Enforcement Administration
  - Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA)
  - Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC)
  - Federal Bureau of Prisons
  - U.S. Sentencing Commission

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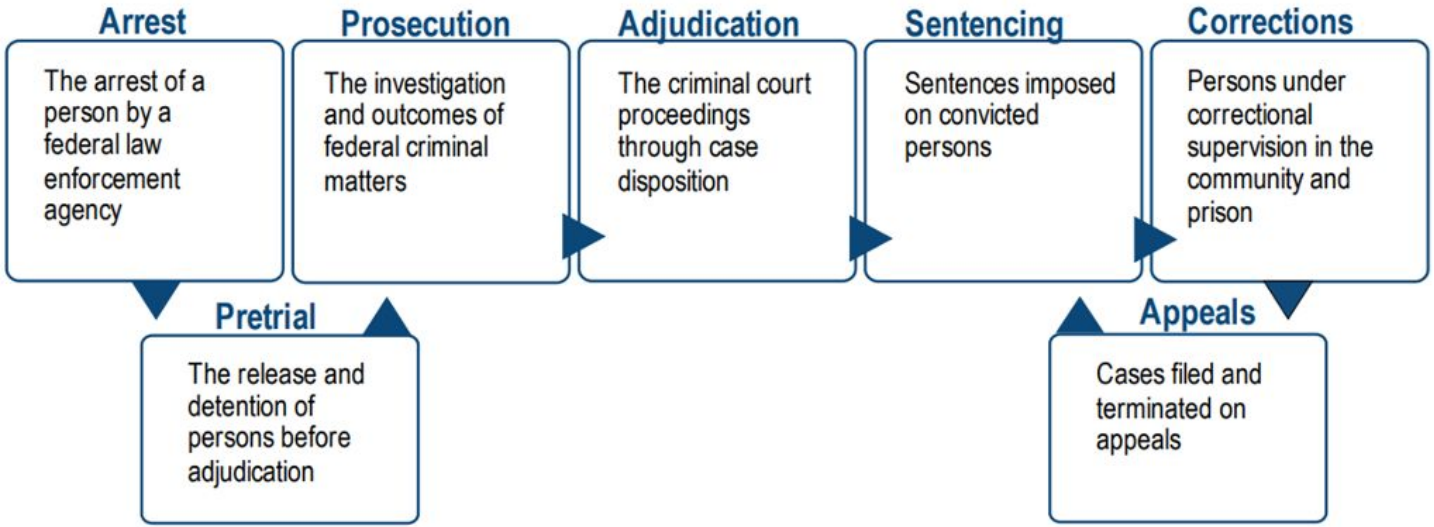
FEDERAL CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING STAGES

- The FJSP links data from **arrest** through **corrections**.



FEDERAL CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING STATISTICS

- Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) **interactive webtool**.
  - Access the tool here.

- **Explore** the federal criminal justice system through FJSP data.

FCCPS TOOL LANDING PAGE

Can query by…

- **Case processing stage**:
  - (1) Law Enforcement
  - (2) Prosecution/Courts
  - (3) Incarceration

- **Criminal statute**:
  - Title and section of the United States Code

FCCPS TOOL FILTERING

- Filter by **variable**.
  - Year, age, sex, etc.
- Can combine filters.
- Data automatically updates.

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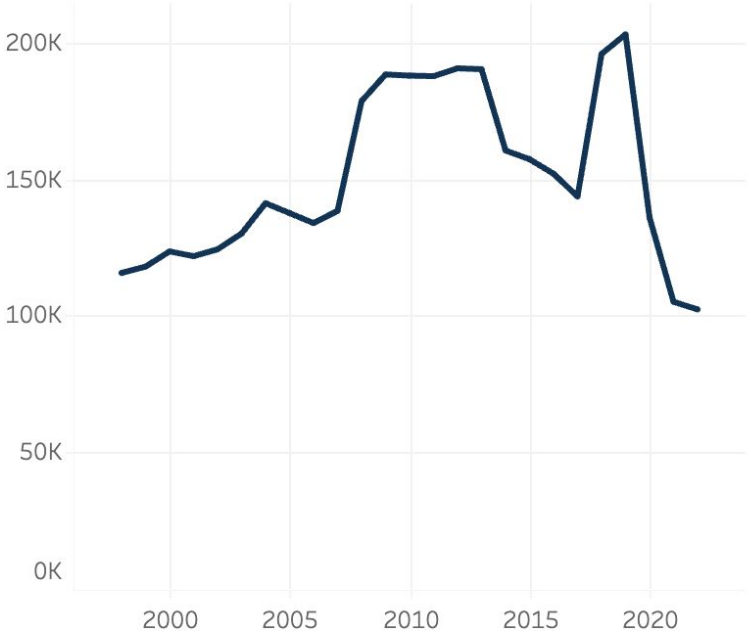
FCCPS TOOL DATA VISUALIZATION

- Create data **visualizations**.

CONTINUE ▼

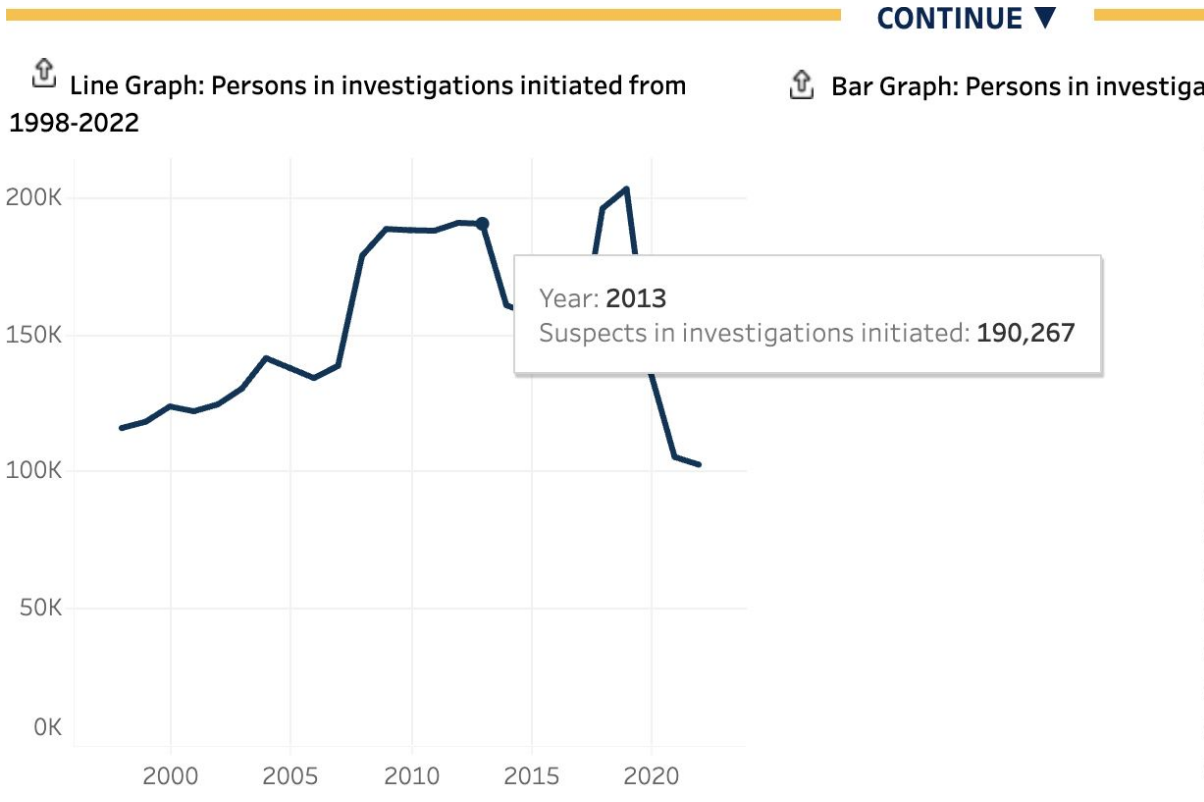
Line Graph: Persons in investigations initiated from 1998-2022



Bar Graph: Persons in investiga

FCCPS TOOL DATA VISUALIZATION

- Create data **visualizations**.
- Explore visualizations **interactively**.



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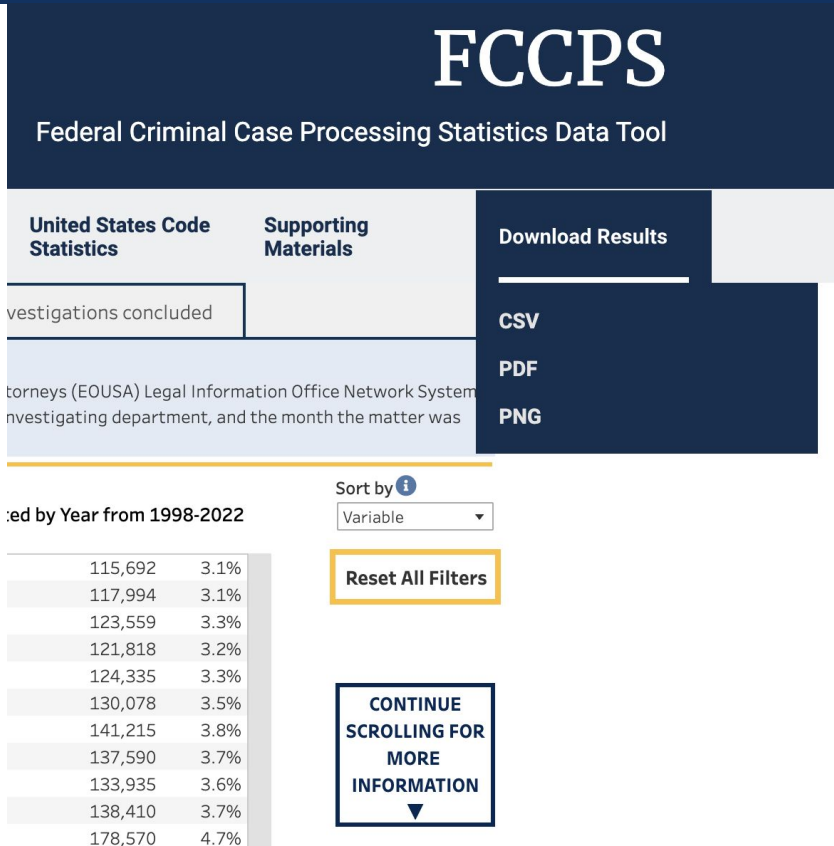
FCCPS TOOL RESULTS DOWNLOAD

- **Download** results:
  - CSV
  - PDF
  - PNG



FCCPS DATA QUERY DEMO

Immigration arrests by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), 2022

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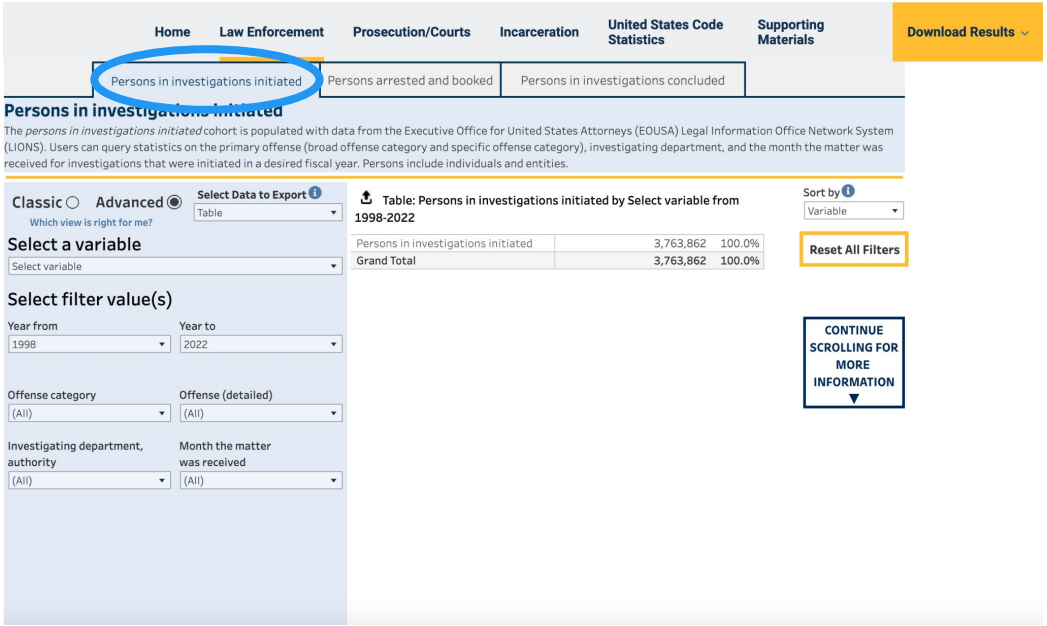
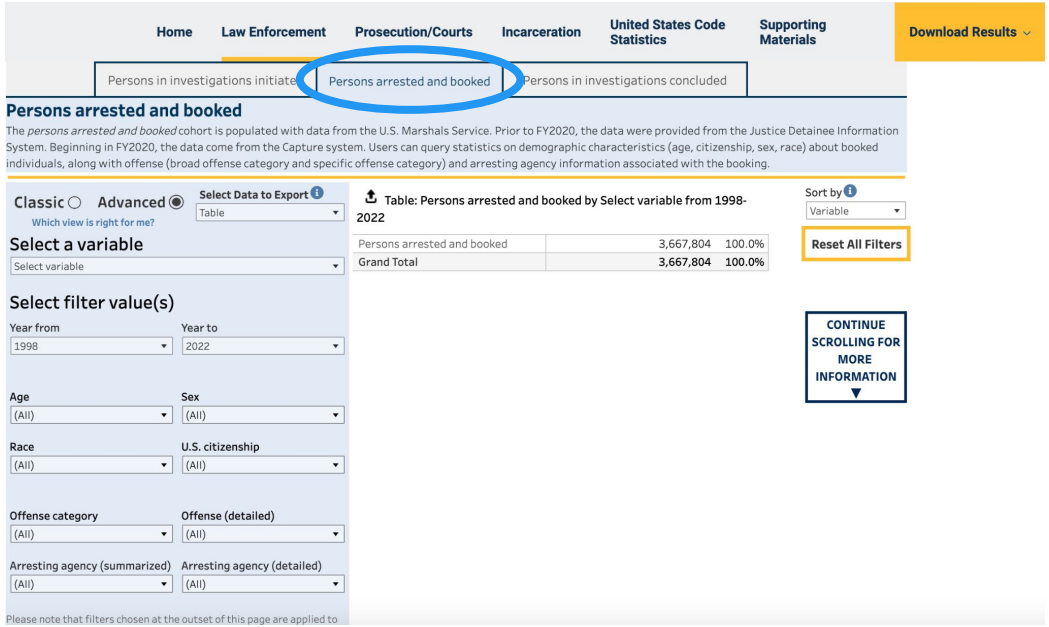
FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS



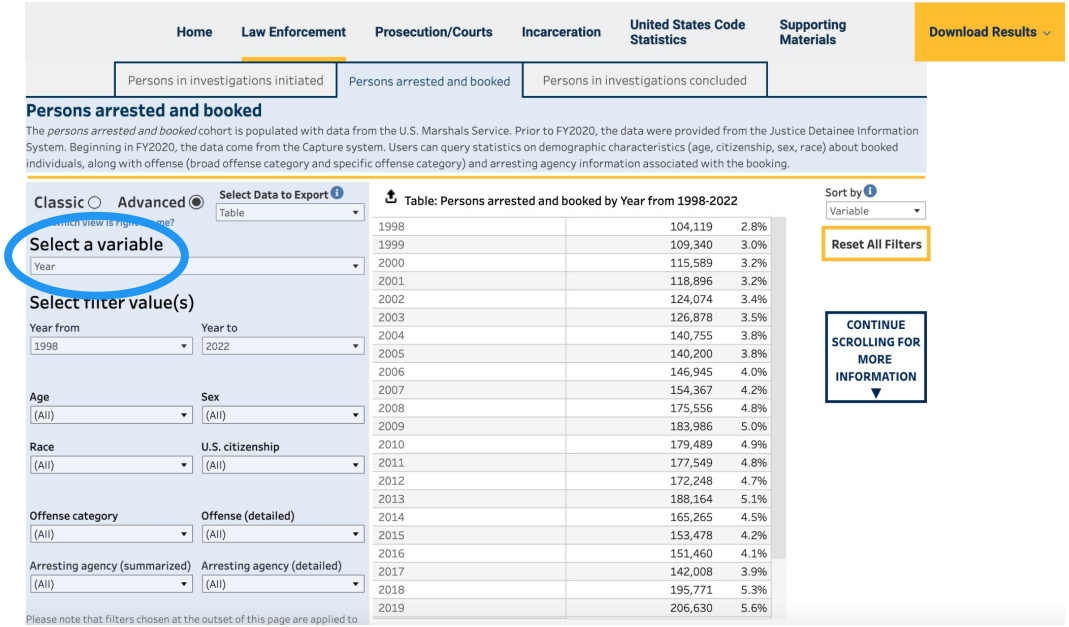
Persons in investigations initiated cohort.

FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS



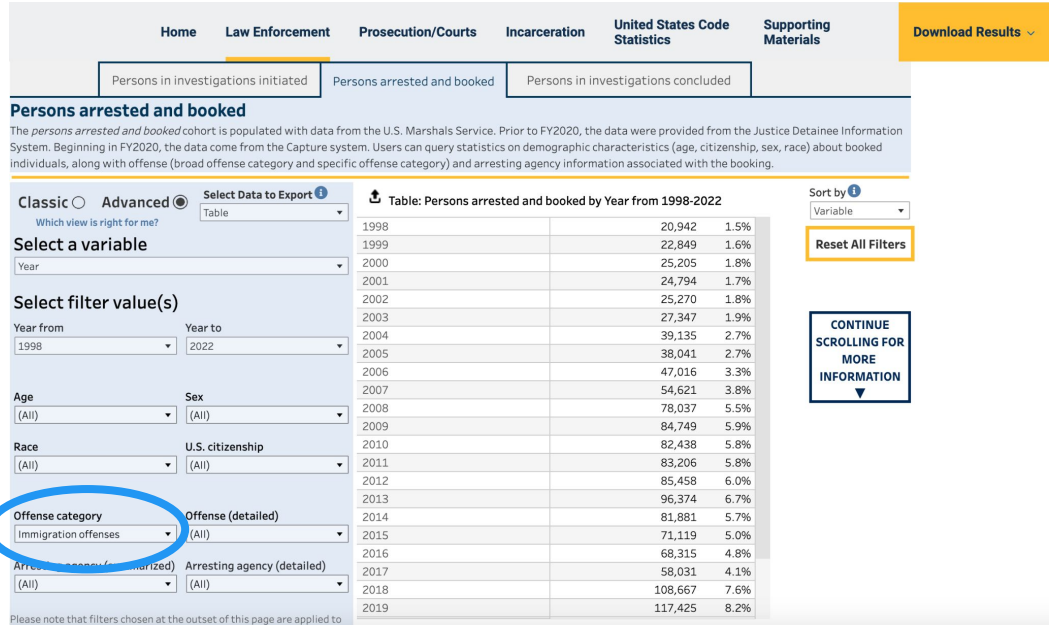
Persons arrested and booked cohort.

FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS



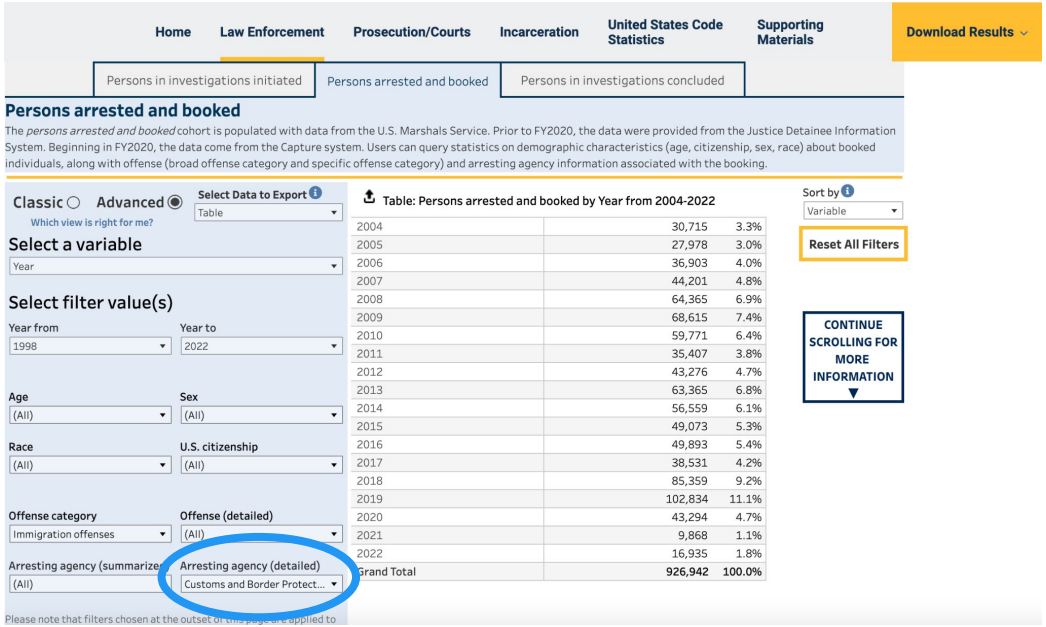
Filtering persons arrested and booked cohort by year.

FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS



Filtering persons arrested and booked cohort by year and offense category.

FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS



Filtering persons arrested and booked cohort by year, offense category, and arresting agency (detailed).

16,935

Arrests and bookings for immigration offenses by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2022

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Just the Stats Report

Immigration and Law Enforcement Trends at the Southwest Border, 2012 - 2022

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JUST THE STATS

- Report series launched in October 2022.
- Features short, downloadable **web reports** focused on specific topics of interest.
- **Modernizes** the release of **timely**, **relevant**, and **credible** statistics.

Publications List

Showing Results For:

Series: Just the Stats

IMMIGRATION REPORT OVERVIEW

- Reports on **immigration** and **law enforcement** at the Southwest U.S.-Mexico border.

- Covers a **decade** of data from 2012 to 2022.

- First *Just the Stats* report to cover immigration.

- Not yet able to share results publicly as report is under review.

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IMMIGRATION REPORT STATISTICS

- Federal criminal **immigration arrests** by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

- **Encounters** with U.S. Border Patrol
  - **Apprehensions** and Title 42 **Expulsions**
  - **Demographic Category**
    - Unaccompanied Children
    - Family Units
    - Single Adults

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IMMIGRATION REPORT ANALYSIS

- Leveraged **R** and **R Markdown** to analyze data, create visualizations, and develop web report as a downloadable HTML file.

- Report highlights:
  - **Interactive** maps and data visualizations.
  - Key findings and statistics.
  - **Downloadable datasets** in CSV and XLSX format.

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IMMIGRATION REPORT NEXT STEPS

- Review by BJS senior staff and potential revisions.
- Publication on BJS website.
- Conference presentation.

SUMMER TAKEAWAYS

- (Seemingly) small changes can have a **big impact**.

- Talking to **real people** is invaluable in informing government research and technological tools.

- An evolving technological landscape presents **challenges** and **opportunities** .

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Thank you!

Questions?

DOJ email: Charles.Costanzo@usdoj.gov
Personal email: cgc5478@psu.edu
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/charles-g-costanzo

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SUPPLEMENTARY SLIDES

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IMMIGRATION REPORT DATA SOURCES

- Incorporates both publicly available data and data not currently available to the public.

- Data sources:
  - U.S. Marshals Service CAPTURE System
    - Provided to BJS through the FJSP.
  - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
  - Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS)

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These goals aim to enhance the collection, production, and dissemination of **critical**, **timely**, and **high-impact statistical information** necessary for development and implementation of criminal justice policies and programs.

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