

# 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 >



**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.



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.

# THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (BJS)

- **Best known** for the **National Crime Victimization Survey**.
- **Other research areas:**
  - Law enforcement
  - Courts
  - Corrections
  - Special Topic Areas



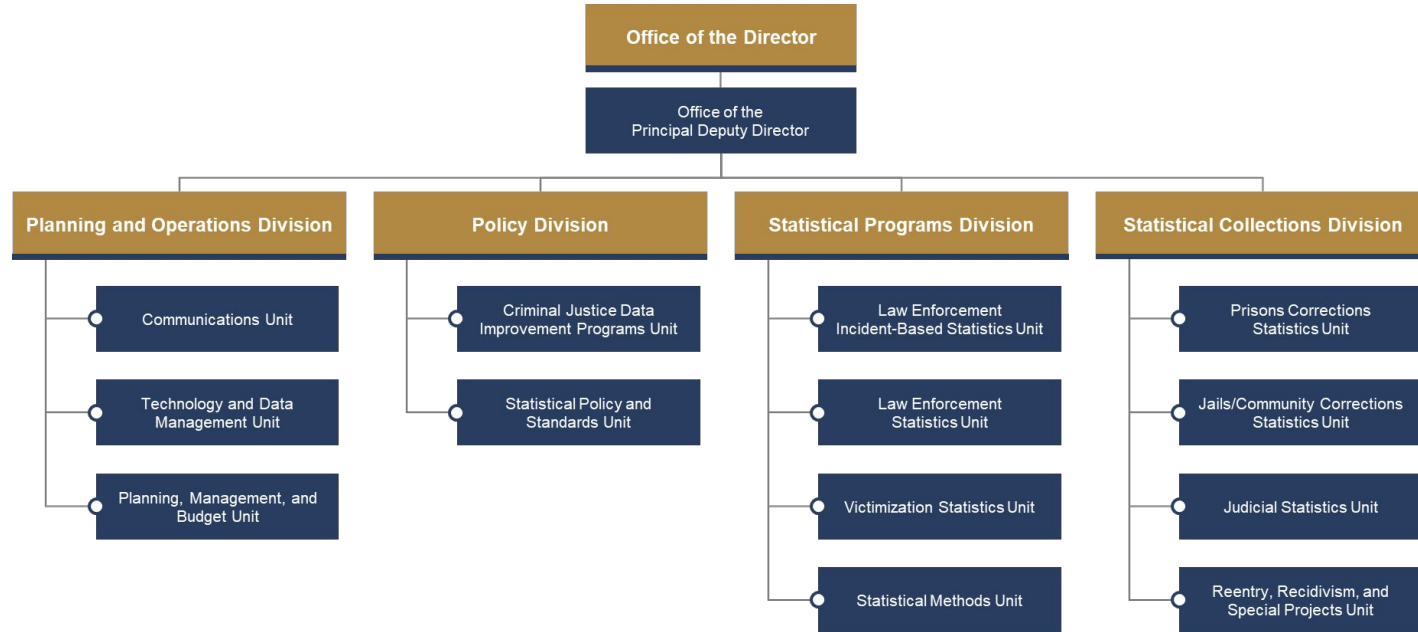
# BJS STRATEGIC PLAN, FY 2024-2029



# MY WORK AT BJS

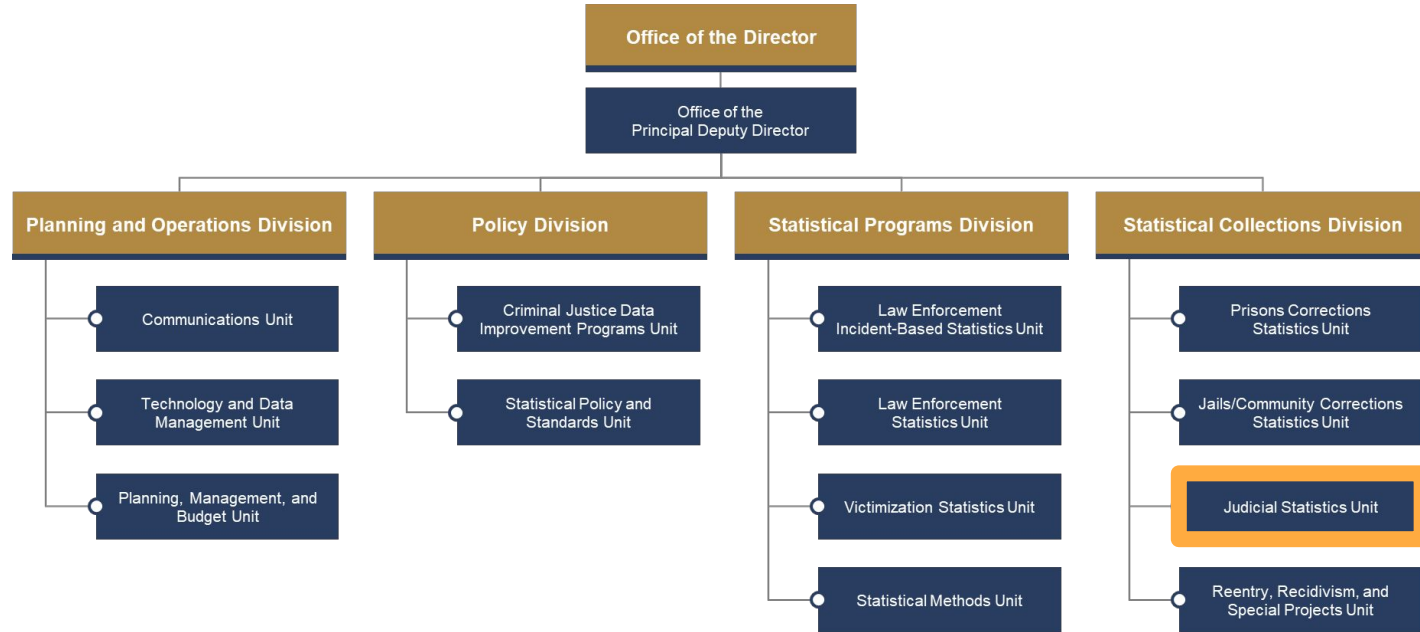
The Judicial Statistics Unit

# BJS ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

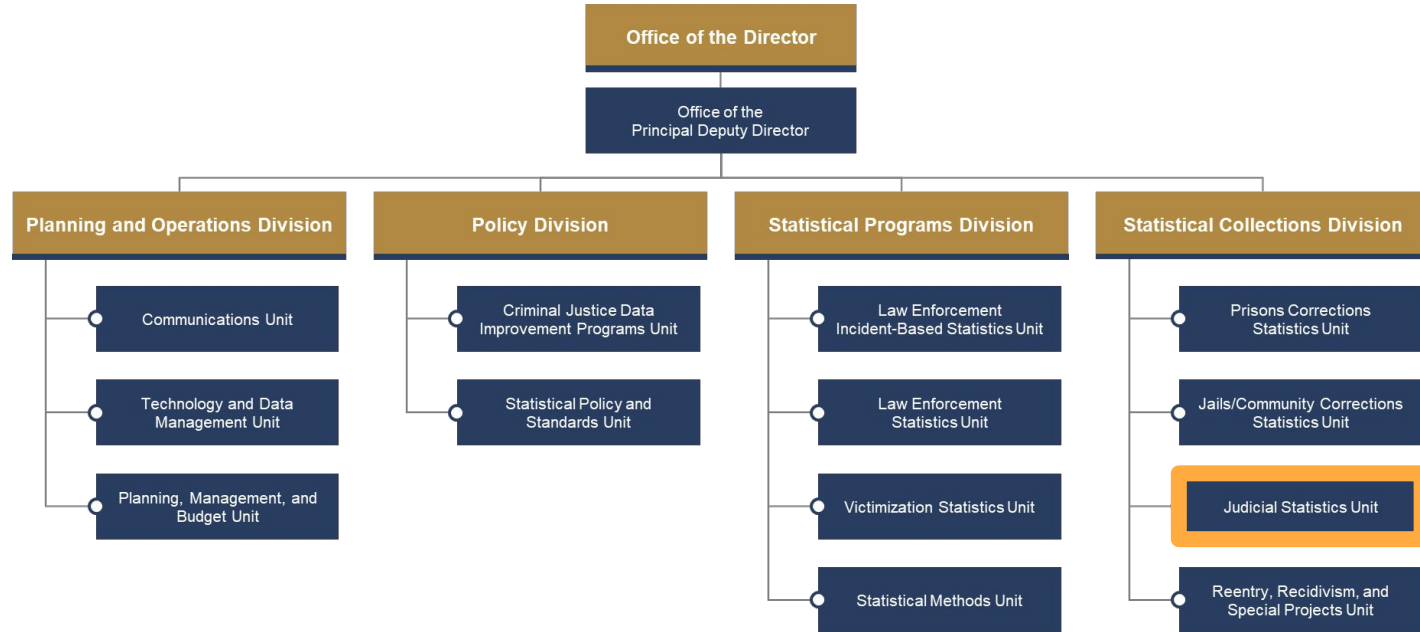




# THE JUDICIAL STATISTICS UNIT (JSU)

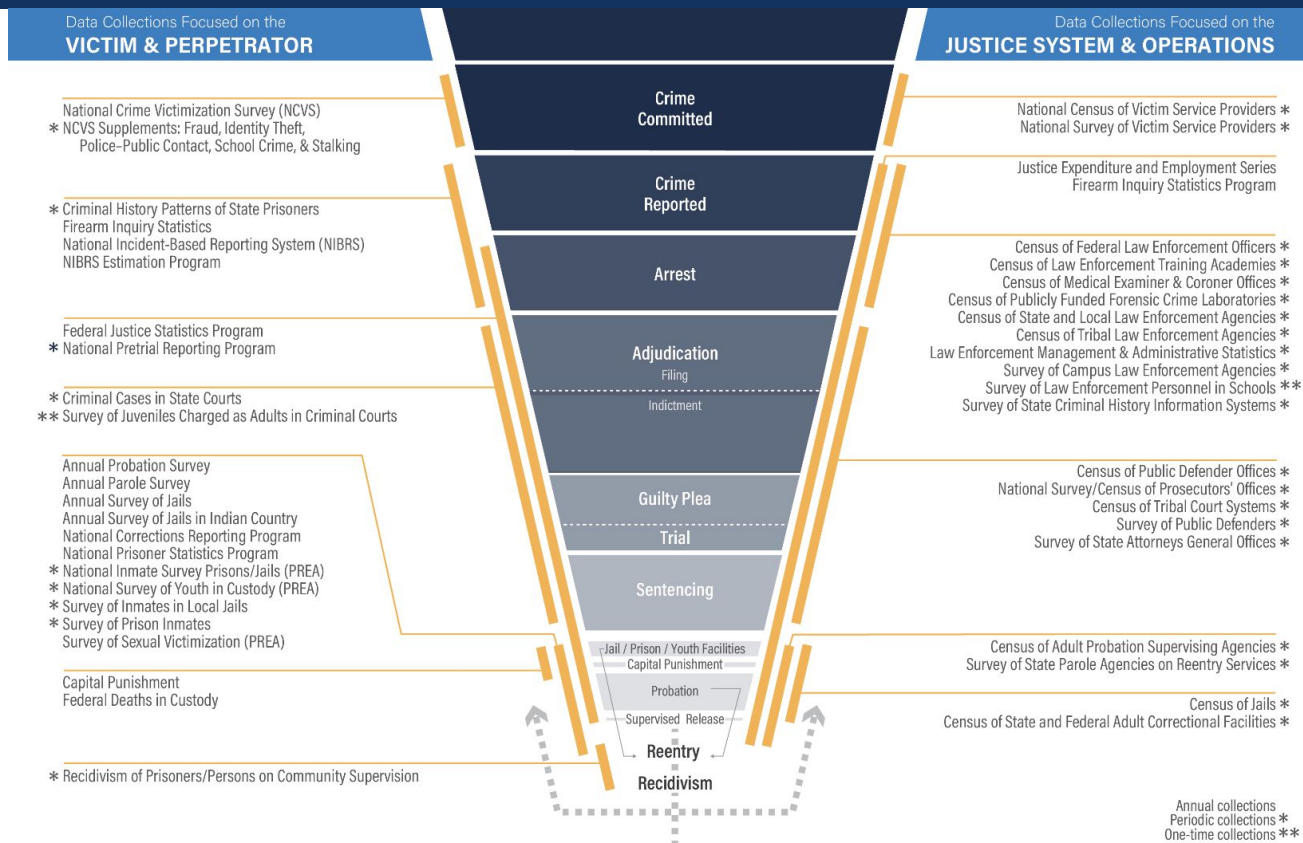


# THE JUDICIAL STATISTICS UNIT (JSU)

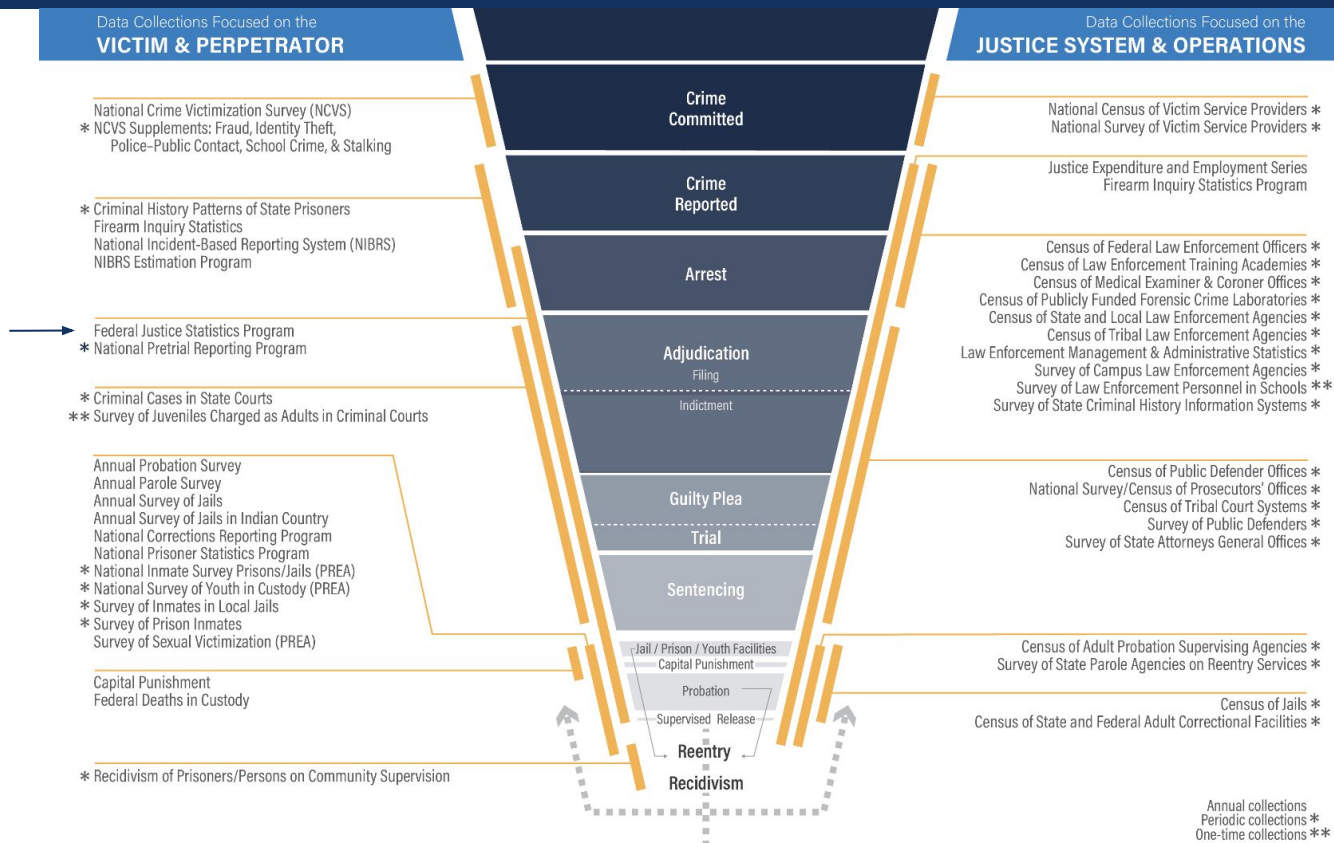


- Studies **courts** and the **federal criminal justice system**.

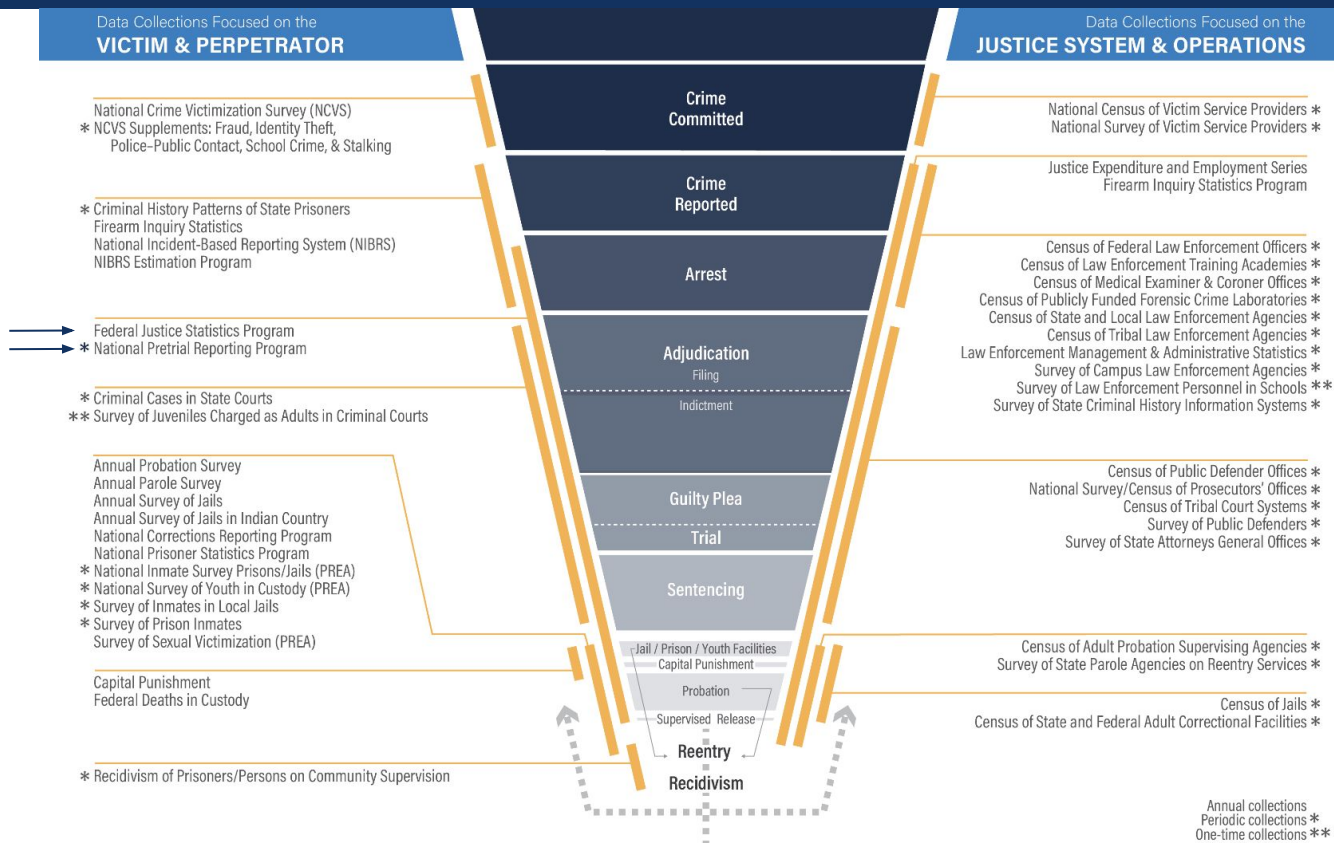
# MY PROJECTS WITH JSU



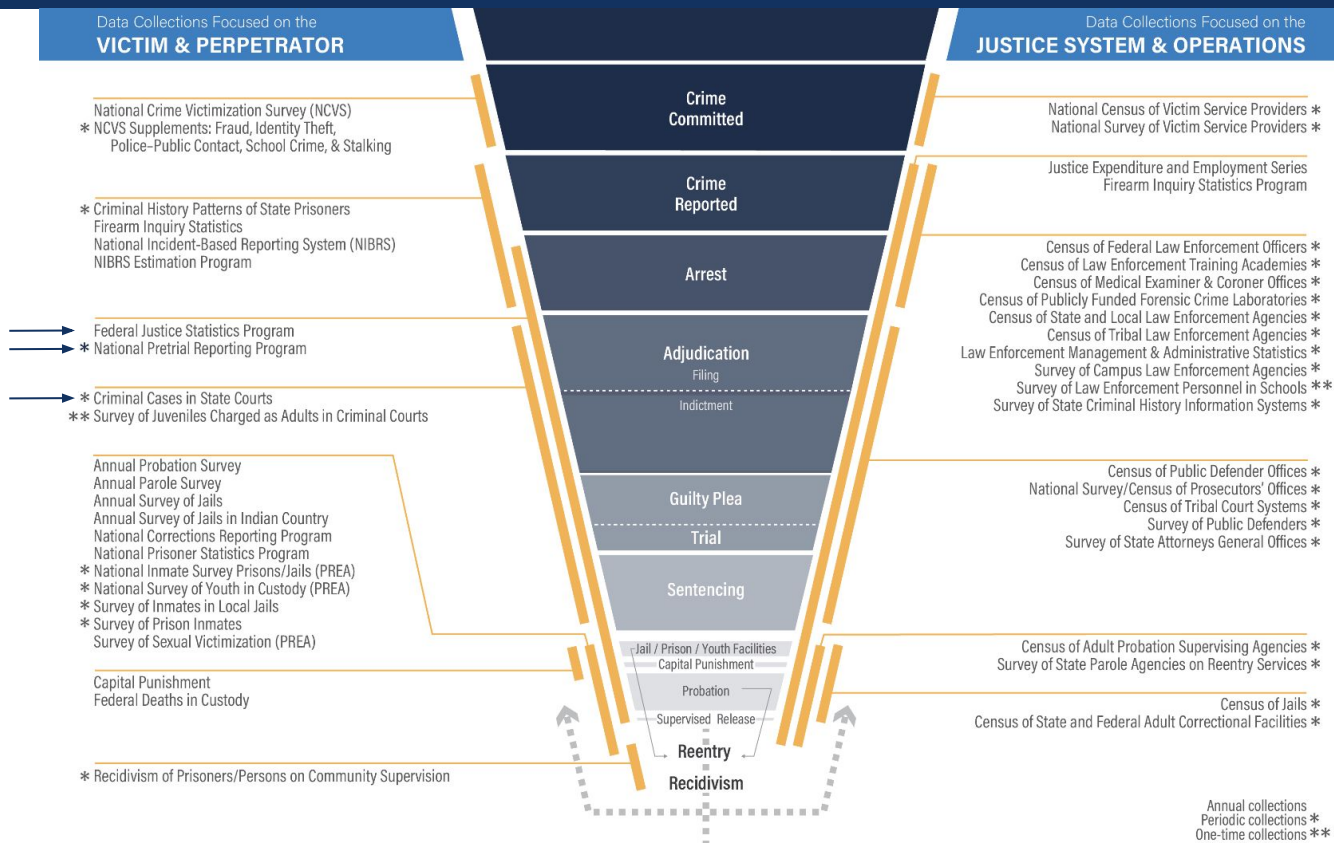
# MY PROJECTS WITH JSU



# MY PROJECTS WITH JSU

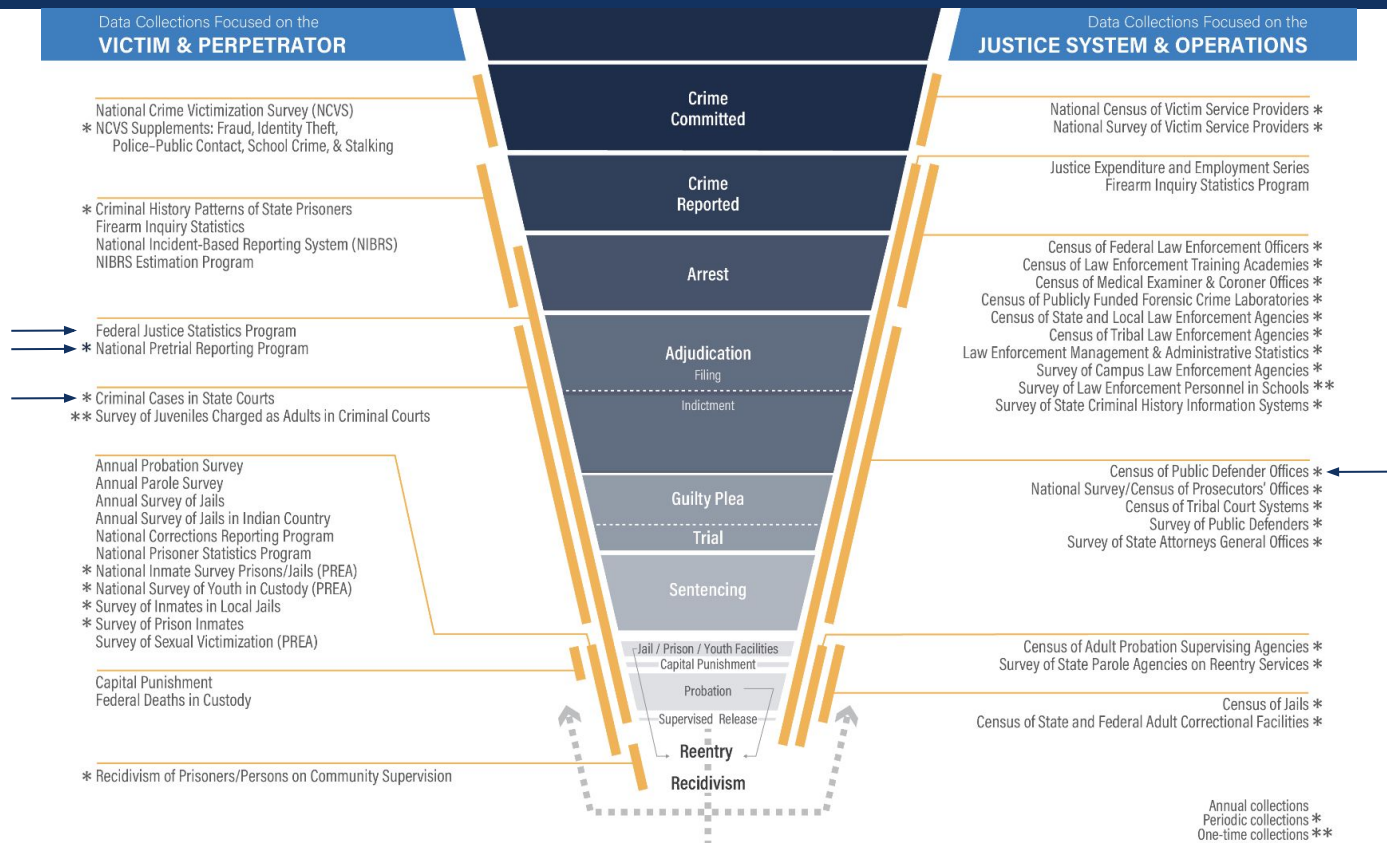


# MY PROJECTS WITH JSU

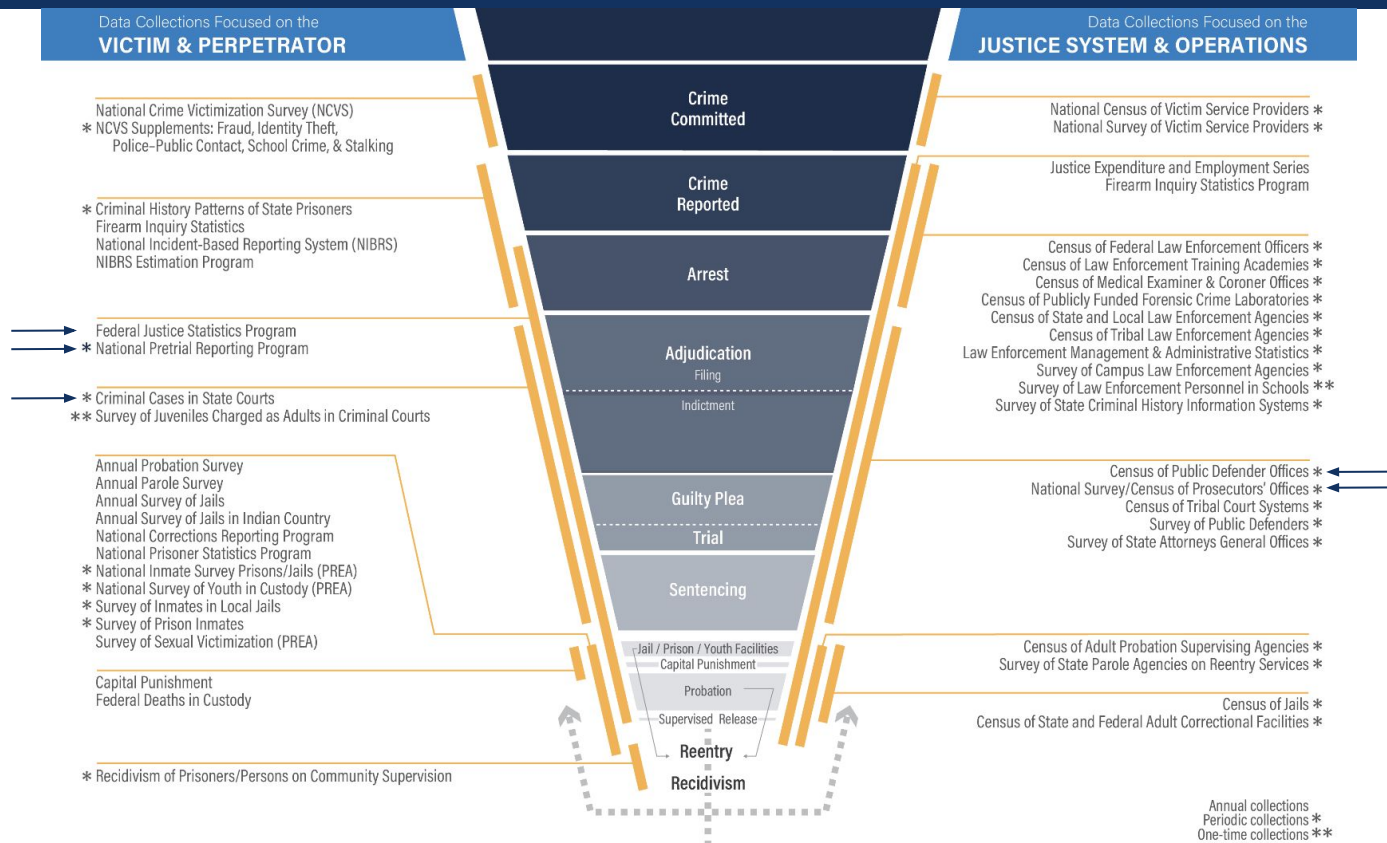




# MY PROJECTS WITH JSU



# MY PROJECTS WITH JSU





# 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

# MY WORK WITH JSU

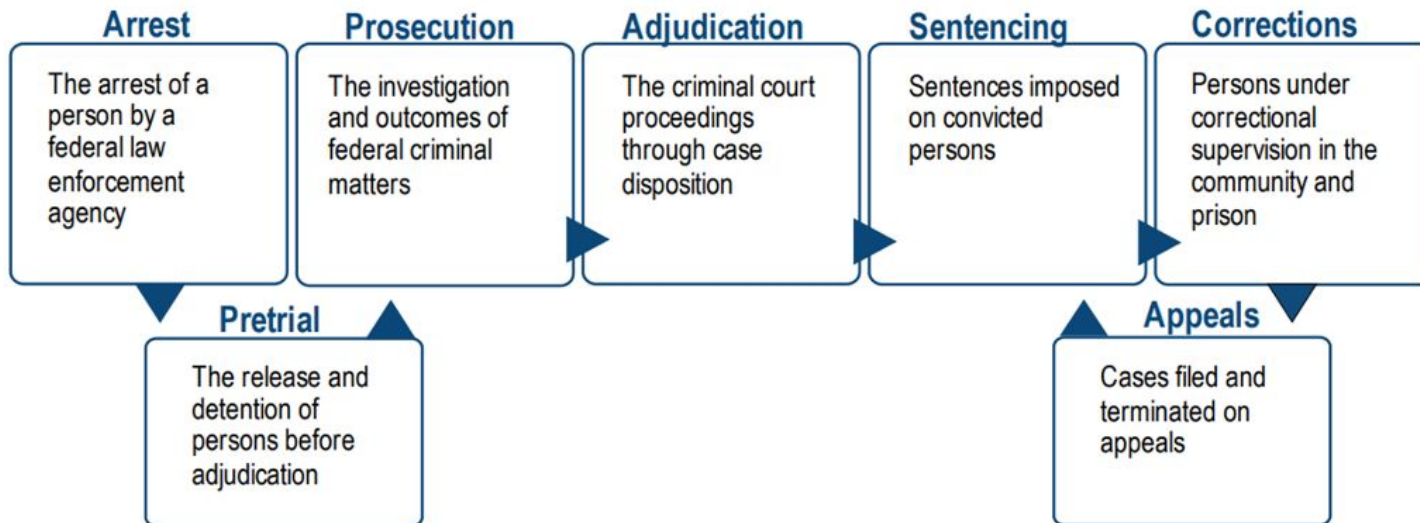
- Criminal Cases in State Courts **data analysis** and **reporting**.
  - First data collection on felony cases in state courts since 2006.
  - Expands previous collections by including misdemeanor cases.
- Federal Justice Statistics Program ***Just the Stats* web report**.
  - Immigration and law enforcement at the Southwest border.

# 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

# 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.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), through its Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP), compiles comprehensive information describing persons processed in the federal criminal justice system. The Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) data tool is an interface that can be used to analyze federal case processing data. Users can generate various statistics in the areas of federal law enforcement, prosecution/courts, and incarceration for the years between 1998 and 2021. Users can also look up data based on title and section of the United States Code for the years between 1994 and 2021. This data tool includes persons held for violating federal laws.

Please select an analytical area of interest from the provided menu.

Click the "+" sign for more information about the case processing stage/cohort.

By Stage	By Title and Section
<b>+ Law Enforcement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Persons in investigations initiated</li><li>+ Persons arrested and booked</li><li>+ Persons in investigations concluded</li></ul>	<b>+ United States Code Statistics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of persons in cases filed</li><li>Number of persons in cases closed</li><li>Outcomes for persons in cases closed</li><li>Type of sentence for persons convicted</li><li>Mean sentence or fine for persons convicted</li></ul>
<b>+ Prosecution/Courts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Persons charged</li><li>+ Persons in cases closed</li><li>+ Persons sentenced</li></ul>	
<b>+ Incarceration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Persons entering federal prison</li><li>+ Persons in federal prison at year-end</li><li>+ Persons exiting federal prison</li></ul>	

# 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



The screenshot shows the FCCPS (Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics) Tool Landing Page. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the BJS (Bureau of Justice Statistics) logo on the left and the text "FCCPS Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics Data Tool" on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Law Enforcement, Prosecution/Courts, Incarceration, United States Code Statistics, Supporting Materials, and a yellow "Download Results" button. The main content area has a white background and contains a paragraph describing the tool's purpose: "The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), through its Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP), compiles comprehensive information describing persons processed in the federal criminal justice system. The Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) data tool is an interface that can be used to analyze federal case processing data. Users can generate various statistics in the areas of federal law enforcement, prosecution/courts, and incarceration for the years between 1998 and 2021. Users can also look up data based on title and section of the United States Code for the years between 1994 and 2021. This data tool includes persons held for violating federal laws." Below this paragraph is a prompt: "Please select an analytical area of interest from the provided menu." and a link: "Click the '+' sign for more information about the case processing stage/cohort." At the bottom, there are two columns of expandable menu items. The left column is titled "By Stage" and lists "Law Enforcement", "Prosecution/Courts", and "Incarceration", each with a "+" icon and a list of sub-items. The right column is titled "By Title and Section" and lists "United States Code Statistics" with a "+" icon and a list of sub-items.

**By Stage**

- + Law Enforcement
  - + Persons in investigations initiated
  - + Persons arrested and booked
  - + Persons in investigations concluded
- + Prosecution/Courts
  - + Persons charged
  - + Persons in cases closed
  - + Persons sentenced
- + Incarceration
  - + Persons entering federal prison
  - + Persons in federal prison at year-end
  - + Persons exiting federal prison

**By Title and Section**

- + United States Code Statistics
  - Number of persons in cases filed
  - Number of persons in cases closed
  - Outcomes for persons in cases closed
  - Type of sentence for persons convicted
  - Mean sentence or fine for persons convicted

# FCCPS TOOL FILTERING

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

## Select a variable

Select variable ▼

Select variable

Year

Age

Sex

Race

Citizen status

Arresting agency (summarized)

Arresting agency (detailed)

Offense category

Offense (detailed)

(All) ▼ (All) ▼

### Offense category

(All) ▼

### Offense (detailed)

(All) ▼

### Arresting agency (summarized)

(All) ▼

### Arresting agency (detailed)

(All) ▼

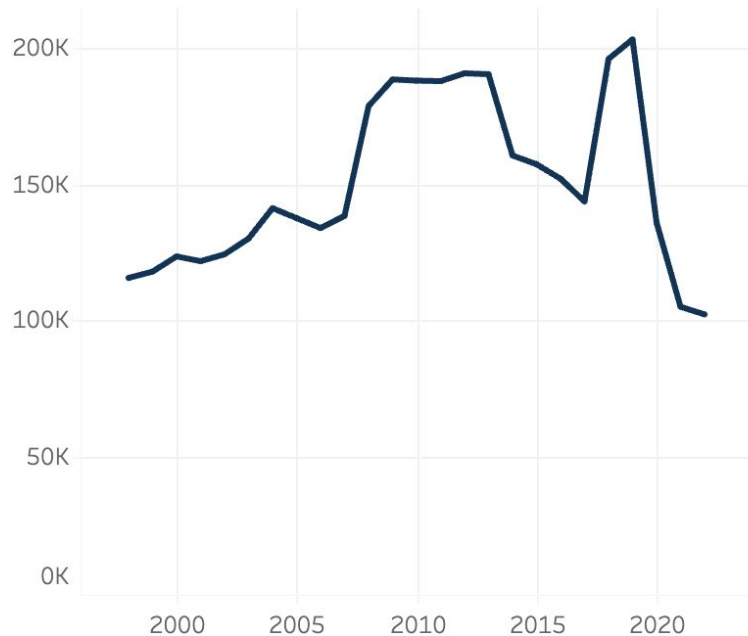
# FCCPS TOOL DATA VISUALIZATION

- Create data **visualizations.**

CONTINUE ▼

Line Graph: Persons in investigations initiated from 1998-2022

Bar Graph: Persons in investigations initiated from 1998-2022





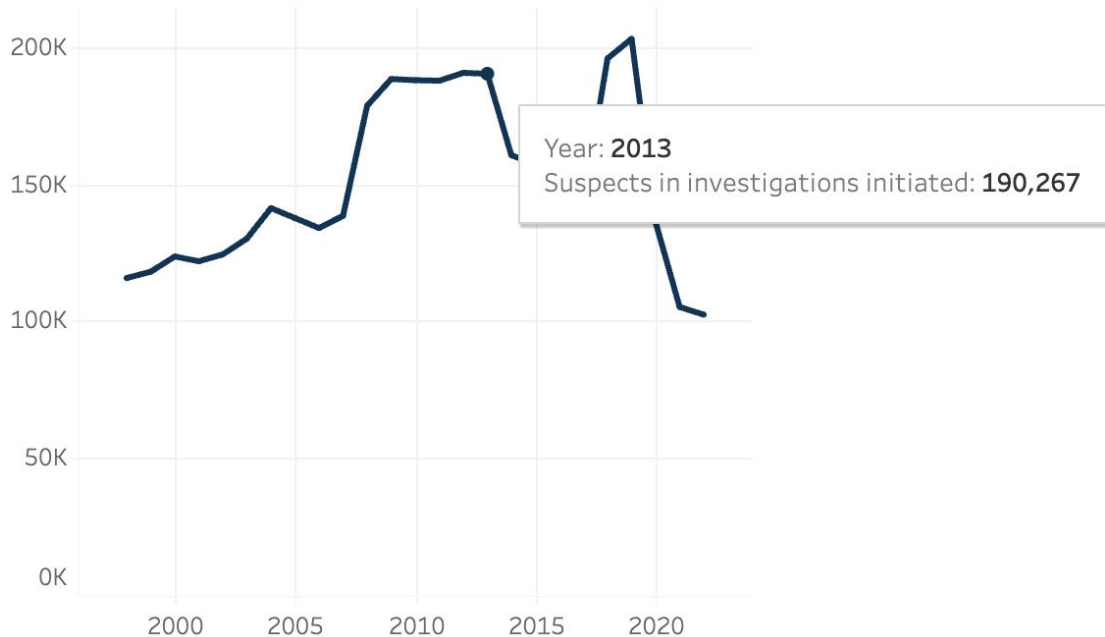
# FCCPS TOOL DATA VISUALIZATION

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

CONTINUE ▼

Line Graph: Persons in investigations initiated from 1998-2022

Bar Graph: Persons in investigations initiated from 1998-2022



# FCCPS TOOL RESULTS DOWNLOAD

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

## FCCPS

Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics Data Tool

United States Code Statistics

Supporting Materials

Download Results



CSV

PDF

PNG

Investigations concluded


Attorneys (EOUSA) Legal Information Office Network System  
Investigating department, and the month the matter was

Sort by   
Variable 

Sorted by Year from 1998-2022

115,692	3.1%
117,994	3.1%
123,559	3.3%
121,818	3.2%
124,335	3.3%
130,078	3.5%
141,215	3.8%
137,590	3.7%
133,935	3.6%
138,410	3.7%
178,570	4.7%

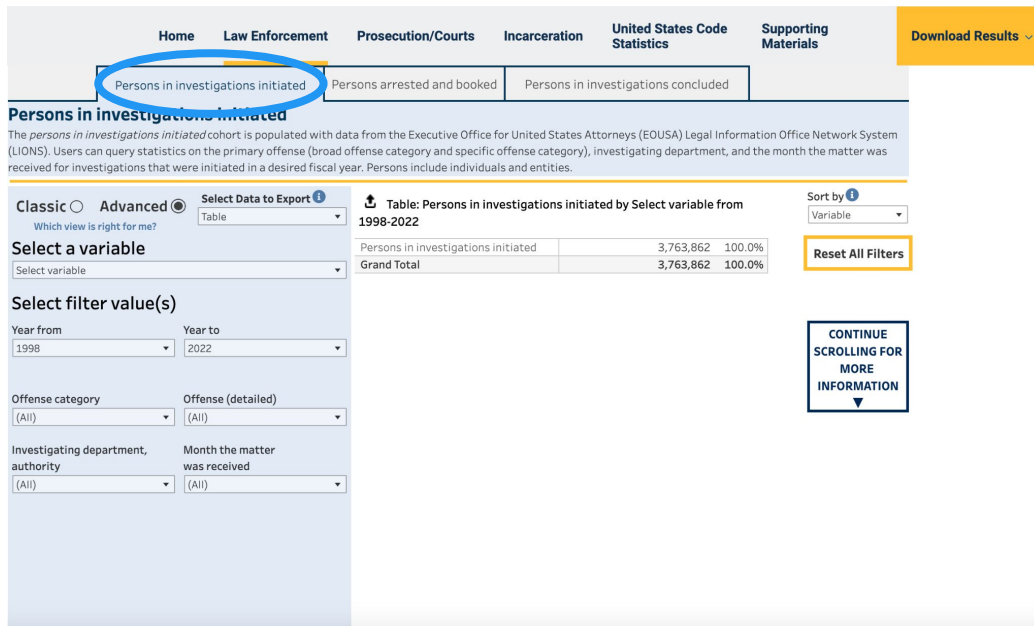
Reset All Filters

CONTINUE  
SCROLLING FOR  
MORE  
INFORMATION  


# FCCPS DATA QUERY DEMO

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

# FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS



The screenshot shows a web application interface for data analysis. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: Home, Law Enforcement, Prosecution/Courts, Incarceration, United States Code Statistics, and Supporting Materials. A blue circle highlights the 'Persons in investigations initiated' tab. To the right of the navigation bar is a yellow 'Download Results' button.

Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Persons in investigations initiated'. A descriptive paragraph follows: 'The persons in investigations initiated cohort is populated with data from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) Legal Information Office Network System (LIONS). Users can query statistics on the primary offense (broad offense category and specific offense category), investigating department, and the month the matter was received for investigations that were initiated in a desired fiscal year. Persons include individuals and entities.'

The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there are filter options: 'Classic' (selected) and 'Advanced', 'Select Data to Export' (set to 'Table'), 'Select a variable' (dropdown), 'Select filter value(s)' (Year from: 1998, Year to: 2022, Offense category: (All), Offense (detailed): (All), Investigating department, authority: (All), Month the matter was received: (All)). On the right, there is a table titled 'Table: Persons in investigations initiated by Select variable from 1998-2022'. The table has two columns: 'Persons in investigations initiated' and 'Grand Total'. The values are 3,763,862 and 100.0% for both. A 'Reset All Filters' button is located below the table. A 'CONTINUE SCROLLING FOR MORE INFORMATION' button is also present.

Persons in investigations initiated	Grand Total
3,763,862	100.0%

Persons in investigations initiated cohort.

# FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

**Persons arrested and booked**

The *persons arrested and booked* cohort is populated with data from the U.S. Marshals Service. Prior to FY2020, the data were provided from the Justice Detainee Information System. Beginning in FY2020, the data come from the Capture system. Users can query statistics on demographic characteristics (age, citizenship, sex, race) about booked individuals, along with offense (broad offense category and specific offense category) and arresting agency information associated with the booking.

**Classic** ☐ **Advanced** ☒ Which view is right for me?

**Select Data to Export** <sup>i</sup>  
Table

**Select a variable**  
Select variable

**Select filter value(s)**

Year from: 1998 Year to: 2022

Age: (All) Sex: (All)

Race: (All) U.S. citizenship: (All)

Offense category: (All) Offense (detailed): (All)

Arresting agency (summarized): (All) Arresting agency (detailed): (All)

**Table: Persons arrested and booked by Select variable from 1998-2022**

Persons arrested and booked	3,667,804	100.0%
Grand Total	3,667,804	100.0%

**Sort by** <sup>i</sup>  
Variable

**Reset All Filters**

**CONTINUE SCROLLING FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please note that filters chosen at the outset of this page are applied to

Persons arrested and booked cohort.

# FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

[Home](#) [Law Enforcement](#) [Prosecution/Courts](#) [Incarceration](#) [United States Code Statistics](#) [Supporting Materials](#) [Download Results](#)

[Persons in investigations initiated](#) [Persons arrested and booked](#) [Persons in investigations concluded](#)

### Persons arrested and booked

The *persons arrested and booked* cohort is populated with data from the U.S. Marshals Service. Prior to FY2020, the data were provided from the Justice Detainee Information System. Beginning in FY2020, the data come from the Capture system. Users can query statistics on demographic characteristics (age, citizenship, sex, race) about booked individuals, along with offense (broad offense category and specific offense category) and arresting agency information associated with the booking.

Classic

Advanced

Select Data to Export

Select a variable

Year

Select filter value(s)

Year from

1998

Year to

2022

Age

(All)

Sex

(All)

Race

(All)

U.S. citizenship

(All)

Offense category

(All)

Offense (detailed)

(All)

Arresting agency (summarized)

(All)

Arresting agency (detailed)

(All)

Table: Persons arrested and booked by Year from 1998-2022

1998	104,119	2.8%
1999	109,340	3.0%
2000	115,589	3.2%
2001	118,896	3.2%
2002	124,074	3.4%
2003	126,878	3.5%
2004	140,755	3.8%
2005	140,200	3.8%
2006	146,945	4.0%
2007	154,367	4.2%
2008	175,556	4.8%
2009	183,986	5.0%
2010	179,489	4.9%
2011	177,549	4.8%
2012	172,248	4.7%
2013	188,164	5.1%
2014	165,265	4.5%
2015	153,478	4.2%
2016	151,460	4.1%
2017	142,008	3.9%
2018	195,771	5.3%
2019	206,630	5.6%

Sort by

Variable

Reset All Filters

CONTINUE SCROLLING FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please note that filters chosen at the outset of this page are applied to

Filtering persons arrested and booked cohort by year.

cif>

# FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

Home Law Enforcement Prosecution/Courts Incarceration United States Code Statistics Supporting Materials Download Results

Persons in investigations initiated Persons arrested and booked Persons in investigations concluded

## Persons arrested and booked

The persons arrested and booked cohort is populated with data from the U.S. Marshals Service. Prior to FY2020, the data were provided from the Justice Detainee Information System. Beginning in FY2020, the data come from the Capture system. Users can query statistics on demographic characteristics (age, citizenship, sex, race) about booked individuals, along with offense (broad offense category and specific offense category) and arresting agency information associated with the booking.

Classic ☐ Advanced ☒ Select Data to Export Table

Which view is right for me?

Select a variable

Year

Select filter value(s)

Year from 1998 Year to 2022

Age (All) Sex (All)

Race (All) U.S. citizenship (All)

Offense category Immigration offenses Offense (detailed) (All)

Arresting agency (detailed) (All)

Table: Persons arrested and booked by Year from 1998-2022

1998	20,942	1.5%
1999	22,849	1.6%
2000	25,205	1.8%
2001	24,794	1.7%
2002	25,270	1.8%
2003	27,347	1.9%
2004	39,135	2.7%
2005	38,041	2.7%
2006	47,016	3.3%
2007	54,621	3.8%
2008	78,037	5.5%
2009	84,749	5.9%
2010	82,438	5.8%
2011	83,206	5.8%
2012	85,458	6.0%
2013	96,374	6.7%
2014	81,881	5.7%
2015	71,119	5.0%
2016	68,315	4.8%
2017	58,031	4.1%
2018	108,667	7.6%
2019	117,425	8.2%

Sort by Variable

Reset All Filters

CONTINUE SCROLLING FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please note that filters chosen at the outset of this page are applied to

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

# FILTERING FOR CBP IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

**Persons arrested and booked**

The persons arrested and booked cohort is populated with data from the U.S. Marshals Service. Prior to FY2020, the data were provided from the Justice Detainee Information System. Beginning in FY2020, the data come from the Capture system. Users can query statistics on demographic characteristics (age, citizenship, sex, race) about booked individuals, along with offense (broad offense category and specific offense category) and arresting agency information associated with the booking.

**Classic** ☐ **Advanced** ☒ **Select Data to Export**

**Select a variable**

Year

**Select filter value(s)**

Year from  Year to

Age  Sex

Race  U.S. citizenship

Offense category  Offense (detailed)

Arresting agency (summarize)  Arresting agency (detailed)

**Table: Persons arrested and booked by Year from 2004-2022**

Year	Count	Percentage
2004	30,715	3.3%
2005	27,978	3.0%
2006	36,903	4.0%
2007	44,201	4.8%
2008	64,365	6.9%
2009	68,615	7.4%
2010	59,771	6.4%
2011	35,407	3.8%
2012	43,276	4.7%
2013	63,365	6.8%
2014	56,559	6.1%
2015	49,073	5.3%
2016	49,893	5.4%
2017	38,531	4.2%
2018	85,359	9.2%
2019	102,834	11.1%
2020	43,294	4.7%
2021	9,868	1.1%
2022	16,935	1.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>926,942</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Sort by**

**Reset All Filters**

**CONTINUE SCROLLING FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please note that filters chosen at the outset of this page are applied to

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

# *Just the Stats* Report

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

# 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.

# 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

# 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.

# IMMIGRATION REPORT NEXT STEPS

- Review by BJS senior staff and potential revisions.
- Publication on [BJS website](#).
- Conference presentation.



The screenshot displays the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) website. At the top, the BJS logo and "Bureau of Justice Statistics" text are visible. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation menu, the "Publications & Products" section is highlighted. The main content area features a "Search Publications" header with a background image of hands typing on a keyboard. Below this, the "Publications List" section is shown, indicating "Showing Results For: Series: Just the Stats". A "Use Search Filters" button is present. The first publication listed is "Data Breach Notifications and Identity Theft, 2021", with details: "Date Published: January 2024", "Series: Just the Stats", and "Publication Type: Publication". The second publication is "Federal Pretrial Release During the Coronavirus Pandemic, Fiscal Years 2019-2021". On the right side, a sidebar contains links for "Just the Stats", "Search Publications", "Forthcoming Publications", "Research and Third-party Reports", and "Data Corrections". At the bottom right, there is a section titled "Interested in Statistics?" with a sign-up for email notices and a "Subscribe" button.

**Bureau of Justice Statistics**

Search

About BJS Topics Publications Data Funding & Awards Programs News Resources

Home / Publications & Products

## Search Publications

### Publications List

Showing Results For:

Series: Just the Stats

Use Search Filters +

 **Data Breach Notifications and Identity Theft, 2021**  
Date Published: January 2024  
Series: [Just the Stats](#)  
Publication Type: Publication

 **Federal Pretrial Release During the Coronavirus Pandemic, Fiscal Years 2019-2021**

Just the Stats

**Search Publications**

Forthcoming Publications

Research and Third-party Reports

Data Corrections

**Interested in Statistics?**

Sign up for email notices of new crime and justice statistical materials as they become available from BJS.

**Subscribe**

# 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** .



# Thank you!

Questions?

DOJ email: [Charles.Costanzo@usdoj.gov](mailto:Charles.Costanzo@usdoj.gov)

Personal email: [cgc5478@psu.edu](mailto:cgc5478@psu.edu)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/charles-g-costanzo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/charles-g-costanzo)

# SUPPLEMENTARY SLIDES

# 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)

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.