

Justice Information Sharing

Defining the Issue

Justice information sharing/integration systems are designed to efficiently and effectively share justice information among distinct justice agencies through the use of innovative technologies. For example, XML (eXtensible Markup Language) allows for the efficient routing and translation of information among disparate information systems or databases. While XML is not the only language or method available to facilitate data sharing, it is one of the most popular within the justice community.

Information sharing initiatives support the traditional criminal justice system and assist intelligence and law enforcement agencies in effectively fighting terrorism. When properly implemented, information sharing and integration systems have the potential to provide a more productive, accurate, effective, efficient and secure means for the sharing and integration of justice data.



Photo from Advanced Concepts Group

State Examples

South Carolina – The South Carolina Department of Corrections has implemented the Regional Court Transports module at 11 regional sites. There have been 742 inmate transports processed for an estimated cost savings of \$95,000 which averages \$128 per transport. Also, a pilot program is in progress for conducting mental health sessions using video conferencing between doctors at one institution and inmates at other institutions. Avoiding travel costs are expected to result in significant savings. Reduced travel will also reduce security risks from escapes. Finally, work is currently progressing on establishing “block scheduling” inmate medical appointments at outside service providers. SC Dept. of Corrections can then share resources between institutions by making arrangements for multiple inmates to travel in one vehicle.

New Hampshire - Byrne JAG funding was instrumental in initiating the design and the development of the new statewide criminal justice information system, known as J-ONE. The J-ONE system is a truly vital part of New Hampshire’s overall information exchange process.

California - California used grant money to help fund the CALGANG system, which tracks gang members and is currently utilized by the majority of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in California. Funds were also awarded to the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse to provide intelligence products, enhanced information sharing and advanced systems technology in direct support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in order to ensure officer safety and enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Louisiana - The “Statewide Criminal Information Exchange Sharing System” enhances intelligence sharing between narcotics and homicide investigators. The system tracks suspects connected to homicides and links to “cold cases”. Regional training of homicide officers and narcotics investigators is provided through this program.

Wisconsin - Funding from Byrne/JAG helped to sustain the Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing Project, or WIJIS. WIJIS uses XML to provide near-real-time access to investigative reports and other critical records across the state, having brought together representatives from the Departments of Justice, Corrections, Transportation, Administration, the circuit courts, district attorneys and local law enforcement to build a Justice Gateway. The Gateway improves public safety by allowing data about criminal and terror events to flow freely across boundaries, and give officers the “big picture” of a given suspect’s whereabouts.

Mississippi - The state used Byrne/JAG grants to fund the Criminal Justice Records Improvement program, which provides criminal justice agencies with direct access to the state’s automated criminal history database and an automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS). The Criminal Justice Records Improvement program improves the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of criminal justice records. The state used the funds to acquire an AFIS system, establish an automated criminal history records system and upgrade its National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.