

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Completeness of Criminal History Records in Arizona, CY2002-2011 Data Brief



Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona.

Arizona Computerized Criminal History Repository

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As mandated by Arizona Revised Statute §41-1750, Arizona criminal justice agencies are required to submit arrest and associated case disposition information for all felony, sexual, domestic violence-related, and driving under the influence (DUI) offenses to the central state repository, called the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) records system. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center used annual ACCH data provided by the Arizona Department of Public Safety to analyze the completeness (i.e., arrest charges with associated case disposition information attached) of ACCH records. The data used in this brief and presented in Tables 1, 3, and 4 exclude all arrest records leading to appellate court decisions and those records containing specific date errors (e.g., case disposition date information precedes date of arrest information).

Completeness of Arrest Records Entered in the ACCH

A total of 449,815 arrest charges from incidents that occurred in calendar year (CY) 2011 were entered into the ACCH prior to January 1, 2012. Of the CY 2011 arrest charges entered into the ACCH, 324,082 (72.0 percent) contained associated case disposition information by the end of CY 2012 (Table 1). During the ten-year period from CY 2002 through CY 2011, the percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information in the ACCH reached a low of 57.2 percent in CY2005. Despite year-to-year decreases in the percentage of arrests with associated disposition information from CY 2002 to CY 2005, the percentage of arrest records with associated disposition information increased to a ten-year high in CY 2011. A similar trend in

**Table 1. Arrest Charges with Associated Case Disposition Information Entered in the ACCH
CY 2002-2011***

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Arrest Charges Available in the ACCH	434,639	446,064	461,829	484,376	494,300	504,890	490,987	470,255	468,582	449,815
Arrest Charges with a Disposition in the ACCH	268,021	264,679	266,897	277,284	313,921	345,081	335,792	306,859	311,774	324,082
Percent of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information	61.7%	59.3%	57.8%	57.2%	63.5%	68.3%	68.4%	65.3%	66.5%	72.0%
Percent of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information (Excluding Failure to Appear Arrest** Charges)	61.3%	59.3%	58.0%	58.6%	65.1%	69.7%	70.5%	66.5%	67.2%	72.8%

* Data includes only those arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest.

** Includes first-and second-degree failure to appear (ARS §13-2507 & ARS §13-2506), and promise to appear violations (ARS §13-3904).

subsequent case disposition completion was discovered when excluding failure to appear arrest charges from the analyses. This statistic is included to address concerns about failure to appear arrest charges, as seen in Table 2. The number of arrest charges entered into the ACCH by the end of the next calendar year fluctuated from CY 2002 to CY 2011 (Table 1). The number of arrest charges entered was 434,639 in CY 2002 and increased to a high of 504,890 in CY 2007 before falling to 449,815 in CY 2011. The total number of charges with associated case disposition information in the ACCH by the end of the following year also fluctuated during this period, ranging from a low of 264,679 arrest charges in CY 2003 to a high of 345,081 in CY 2007.

Charges Missing Disposition Information by Offense Statute

The ten offenses with the highest number of arrest charges missing case disposition information from CY 2002 to CY 2011 are identified in Table 2. For example, 116,050 second degree failure to appear arrest charges were missing disposition information and 97,011 driving under the influence (DUI) charges were missing disposition information in the ACCH as of the beginning of CY 2013.

An arrest offense statute with a high number of charges with missing disposition information does not necessarily have a high percentage of charges missing disposition information in the ACCH. For example, although 97,011 DUI arrest charges were missing disposition information, the percentage of all DUI charges with missing case disposition information was 19.0 percent. In contrast, 52,833 first degree failure to appear charges were missing disposition information in the ACCH at the beginning of CY 2012, which constituted 60.0 percent of all arrest charges for first degree failure to appear from CY 2002 to CY2011.

Table 2. Arrest Offense Categories with the Highest Number of Charges Missing Disposition Information in the ACCH, CY 2002-2011*

Arrest Offense Statute and Description	Total Charges Missing Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2013)	Percentage of Charges Missing Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2013)
1. A.R.S. §13-2506: 2 nd Degree Failure to Appear	116,050	30.8%
2. A.R.S. §28-1381: Driving Under the Influence	97,011	19.0%
3. A.R.S. §13-3415: Drug Paraphernalia Violation	80,103	27.6%
4. A.R.S. §13-3405: Marijuana Violation	57,689	28.3%
5. A.R.S. §13-2810: Interfering with Judicial Proceedings	53,466	36.4%
6. A.R.S. §13-2507: 1 st Degree Failure to Appear	52,833	60.0%
7. A.R.S. §28-3473: Driving Violation	51,781	24.6%
8. A.R.S. §13-2904: Disorderly Conduct	50,421	22.8%
9. A.R.S. §13-3904: Promise to Appear Violation	44,718	24.5%
10. A.R.S. §13-1203: Assault	43,269	19.7%

* Data includes all CY 2002-2011 arrest charges and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31, 2012 without date errors.

Case Disposition Completion Rates by County

The percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information is also available by county (Table 3). From CY 2002 to CY 2011, thirteen counties increased their percentage of arrest charges entered into the ACCH with associated case disposition information attached. In CY 2002, the percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information entered by the following calendar year for the 15 counties ranged from 38.7 percent to 76.8 percent. By CY 2011, the county percentages ranged from 50.0 percent to 82.9 percent of the total number of arrest charges entered into the ACCH with the associated case disposition information attached by the end of CY 2012.

Worth noting are the improvements of Greenlee and Yavapai counties. In CY 2011, both counties increased their ACCH arrest charge completion rates to more than 80 percent. Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Yuma counties also increased or maintained their ACCH arrest charge completion rates at more than 70 percent completion in CY 2011 (Table 3).

County	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Apache	61.0%	62.1%	67.0%	65.5%	62.2%	64.7%	57.5%	75.3%	69.2%	71.5%
Cochise	38.7%	52.3%	57.0%	69.8%	67.0%	71.5%	68.2%	75.2%	67.3%	72.2%
Coconino	43.5%	51.0%	55.7%	57.2%	49.7%	63.6%	59.6%	46.7%	67.0%	63.8%
Gila	53.4%	58.6%	55.7%	56.6%	51.3%	50.6%	55.6%	60.5%	65.9%	79.9%
Graham	72.8%	65.9%	70.4%	66.4%	58.8%	62.1%	62.5%	69.4%	73.0%	71.7%
Greenlee	49.9%	63.1%	64.0%	66.0%	50.1%	73.9%	83.9%	76.6%	86.4%	82.2%
La Paz	68.9%	62.3%	65.4%	66.8%	46.2%	28.7%	38.9%	37.3%	53.0%	64.8%
Maricopa	66.9%	68.6%	68.0%	63.4%	66.7%	72.2%	72.9%	66.3%	66.0%	73.3%
Mohave	55.0%	62.0%	62.9%	60.9%	63.3%	62.9%	65.0%	72.6%	72.7%	73.6%
Navajo	48.4%	32.4%	21.6%	33.1%	42.8%	52.2%	54.1%	53.5%	50.5%	50.0%
Pima	58.5%	34.9%	34.8%	40.6%	61.3%	63.7%	57.3%	59.1%	66.8%	74.1%
Pinal	58.8%	65.8%	64.9%	62.2%	66.2%	63.5%	66.8%	71.2%	68.1%	66.8%
Santa Cruz	63.2%	67.5%	64.9%	60.3%	64.3%	59.4%	74.3%	78.2%	69.1%	72.0%
Yavapai	53.4%	54.1%	39.6%	59.0%	69.5%	75.1%	78.4%	80.0%	82.0%	82.9%
Yuma	76.8%	73.8%	70.8%	66.5%	73.3%	76.8%	81.3%	78.1%	78.5%	77.2%

* Data includes only those arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest.

Table 4. Percentage of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information in the ACCH by Offense Class, CY 2002-2011*

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percentage of Felony Arrest Charges Disposed	55.4%	53.7%	51.7%	51.1%	60.3%	65.9%	68.3%	61.5%	60.4%	67.2%
Percentage of Misdemeanor Arrest Charges Disposed	65.4%	62.8%	61.7%	61.1%	65.5%	69.8%	68.5%	67.7%	70.4%	75.3%

* Data includes only those arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest.

The data in Table 4 addresses the percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information available in the ACCH by offense class (i.e., misdemeanor vs. felony). For all ten years of ACCH data examined, a higher percentage of misdemeanor arrest charges had associated case disposition information in the ACCH as compared to felony charges. The percentage of misdemeanor arrest charges with associated case disposition information attached rose from 65.4 percent to 75.3 percent over the ten-year period. Similarly, the percentage of felony arrest charges with associated case disposition information attached improved from 55.4 from CY 2002 to 67.2 percent in CY 2011. The data in Table 4 includes arrest charges and associated case disposition data entered by December 31st of the year following the year of arrest.

Case Disposition Completion Rates by Offense Class

The data in Table 4 addresses the percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information available in the ACCH by offense class (i.e., misdemeanor vs. felony). For all ten years of ACCH data examined, a higher percentage of misdemeanor arrest charges had

Electronic vs. Paper Disposition Submission to DPS

Table 5 displays the percentage of dispositions submitted to the ACCH by calendar year and by method of submission to the ACCH. The percentage of electronic case disposition submissions, which includes submissions made via the Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS), was 9.3 percent of all charges submitted in CY 2002, rising to 19.5 percent by CY 2011.

Table 5. Percentage of Dispositions by Disposition Submission Type, CY 2002-2011*

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Charges Electronically Submitted to DPS	9.3%	11.9%	14.1%	13.7%	9.7%	7.1%	7.1%	7.0%	6.6%	7.3%
Charges Electronically Submitted through ADRS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0%	6.4%	13.3%	13.7%	13.4%	12.2%
Charges Submitted via Paper Submission	90.7%	88.1%	85.9%	86.3%	90.3%	86.4%	79.5%	79.3%	80.1%	80.5%

* Data includes all disposition charges entered into the ACCH without date errors during the calendar year.

Conclusion

The findings described in this research brief have been compiled using an ACCH data file provided by the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Arizona criminal justice agencies have made important strides in records completeness, reflected in the increase from CY 2001 to CY 2011 in the percentage of arrests submitted to the ACCH with associated case disposition information attached. Room does exist for continued improvement, however, in the completeness of arrest information and subsequent case disposition information. Quality criminal history record data will continue to help criminal justice agencies with offender identification, arrest and sentencing decisions, and background checks for employment and firearm purchases.

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