

# Sentencing Database

CT Sentencing Commission

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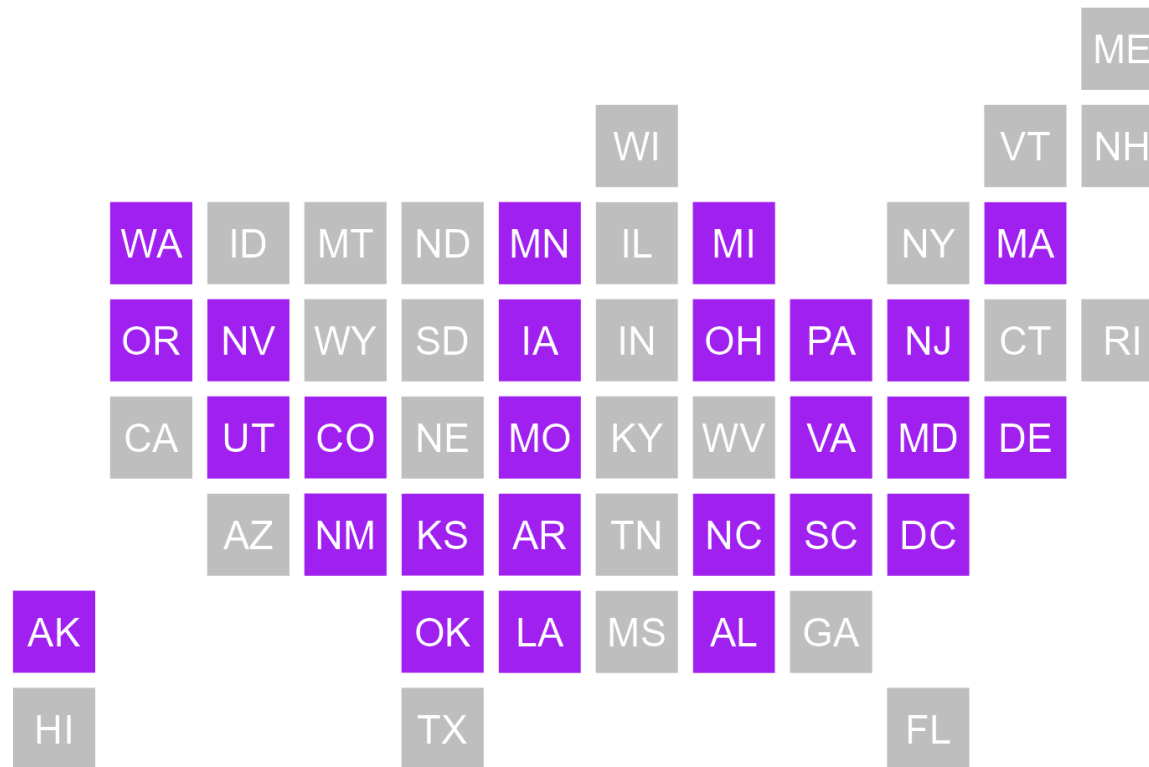
2009



Figure 1: Jodi Rell



Figure 2: Barack Obama



Sentencing Commissions - Jan. 2009    0    1

Source: App. B, Connecticut Sentencing Task Force Report (2009)

Figure 3: State Sentencing Commissions, 2009

# Connecticut Sentencing Task Force

# Task Force Recommendation

The Commission shall perform the following duties: (1) Facilitate the development and maintenance of a statewide sentencing database in collaboration with existing state and local agencies. . . . .

Task Force Report (2009, App. A).

# Task Force Recommendation

One of the primary tasks of the Commission will be to develop an extensive sentencing database. The sentencing database will draw on information collected by other state agencies (e.g. Department of Correction, Board of Parole and Pardons, Court Operations Division) . . .

Task Force Report (2009, p. 10).



# Task Force Recommendation

in addition to collecting *new* offender-specific sentencing information, such as plea information and prior criminal history, which currently is not easily accessible.

Task Force Report (2009, p. 10).

# Task Force Recommendation

Once completed, the database will enable the state to follow the offender throughout the entire system, from arrest to post-release supervision, rather than the agency-by-agency approach that is currently in place.

Task Force Report (2009, p. 10).

# Task Force Recommendation

The Commission will use its advanced data capacity to inform sentencing policy decisions, gauge the fiscal impact of proposed legislation, help judges determine the appropriate factors to be relied upon in imposing sentences and conduct evaluations of policies and programs.

Task Force Report (2009, p. 10).

**2010**

# Public Act 10-129

(f) The commission shall:

(1) Facilitate the development and maintenance of a state-wide sentencing database in collaboration with state and local agencies, using existing state databases or resources where appropriate...

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# Public Act 10-129

(g) Upon completing the development of the state-wide sentencing database pursuant to [section f(1)], the commission shall review criminal justice legislation as requested and as resources allow.

2015

# Strategic Action Plan

Objective 3.1: Build data capacity and create a state-wide sentencing database.

Strategy: Identify datasets needed to accomplish Commission mission, initiatives, and legislative mandates.

Strategy: Develop a framework for obtaining, housing, analyzing, and publishing said data.

Commission Annual Report 2015, p. 27.



2023

# Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-300

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(1) Facilitate the development and maintenance of a state-wide sentencing database in collaboration with state and local agencies, using existing state databases or resources where appropriate....

# Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-300

(g) Upon completing the development of the state-wide sentencing database pursuant to [section f(1)], the commission shall review criminal justice legislation as requested and as resources allow.

# Costs

Ad hoc case-by-case data-sharing agreements with agencies:

1. lost staff time and resources in securing already-collected data
2. can't conduct exploratory data analysis on its own

# Target

Build the Commission sentencing database.

- Data pipelines to already collected by DOCS, CSSD, Court Operations, other agencies
- User interface for targeted and exploratory data analysis by Commission staff.
- Parameterized reporting

# Research Project

# Research Questions

What do key stakeholders believe are the technical and socio-legal challenges to

1. long-term data-sharing agreements with other government agencies that regularly collect and compile relevant data?



(i) The commission shall have access to confidential information received by sentencing courts and the Board of Pardons and Paroles including, but not limited to, arrest data, criminal history records, medical records and other nonconviction information.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-300

2. regularly and securely obtaining *updated* information from those agencies?

3. building a database user interface to enable exploratory data analysis by commission staff?

4. securing skilled personnel to help commission staff use the sentencing database?

5. determining database access?

(m) Any records or information supplied to the commission that is confidential in accordance with any provision of the general statutes shall remain confidential while in the custody of the commission and shall not be disclosed. Any penalty for the disclosure of such records or information . . . shall apply in the same manner and to the same extent to the members, staff and authorized representatives of the commission.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-300.

6. How have other State sentencing commissions with similar statutory authority handled such issues?

# Method

- Interviews (about 1 hour each)
  - Stakeholders in CT
  - Stakeholders in Other States with Sentencing Commission database authority
- Snowball Sampling
- Confidential and de-identified.

Report of Findings to the CT Sentencing Commission.



# Questions and Contact



