

Issue 6: February 2023

We have reached two important project milestones. First, we are excited to release eight reports examining disparities at points of prosecutorial discretion. Second, we have five new District Attorneys' (DA) Offices that have joined the project. In this newsletter, we discuss these important achievements and describe our plans for continued statewide scale.

## The Colorado Prosecutorial Dashboards Project

The **Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab** (Colorado Lab) and the national **Prosecutorial Performance Indicators** are working with **judicial districts across Colorado** to develop data dashboards to assist DA Offices with tracking progress toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness.

In September 2022, the eight pilot sites developed **publicly-available data dashboards** to promote more effective, just, and transparent decision-making in prosecution. Now entering Phase 2, we are developing the tools and infrastructure to scale use of the dashboards statewide.



## Digging Deeper into Racial/Ethnic Disparities at Points of Prosecutorial Discretion


On February 15, we released a new series of reports which take a “deep dive” to examine disproportionality and disparity in the eight DA Offices that participated in the pilot phase. The reports provide these Offices with a more in-depth understanding of differences in outcomes across racial/ethnic groups at key points of prosecutorial discretion, while taking into account potential differences among defendants and cases.

Overall, results show evidence of disproportionality, meaning that more Hispanic and Black individuals were arrested than expected, given the population. The reports also show some evidence of disparity at points of prosecutorial discretion throughout the criminal justice process, for example:

- A greater percentage of cases involving Black individuals were dismissed or had their charges reduced.
- A greater percentage of cases involving Hispanic individuals resulted in a guilty plea.
- In some jurisdictions, a greater percentage of cases involving Hispanic or Native American individuals were sentenced to incarceration.

Each interactive report, which identifies the Office’s key takeaways and next steps, is linked through their [data dashboard](#).

We announced the release of the reports in our [press release](#). Check out the [media coverage](#) from 9News, the Denver Post, and the Boulder Daily Camera. We are excited that the reports are helping Offices identify actions to ensure that defendants and victims are treated fairly.


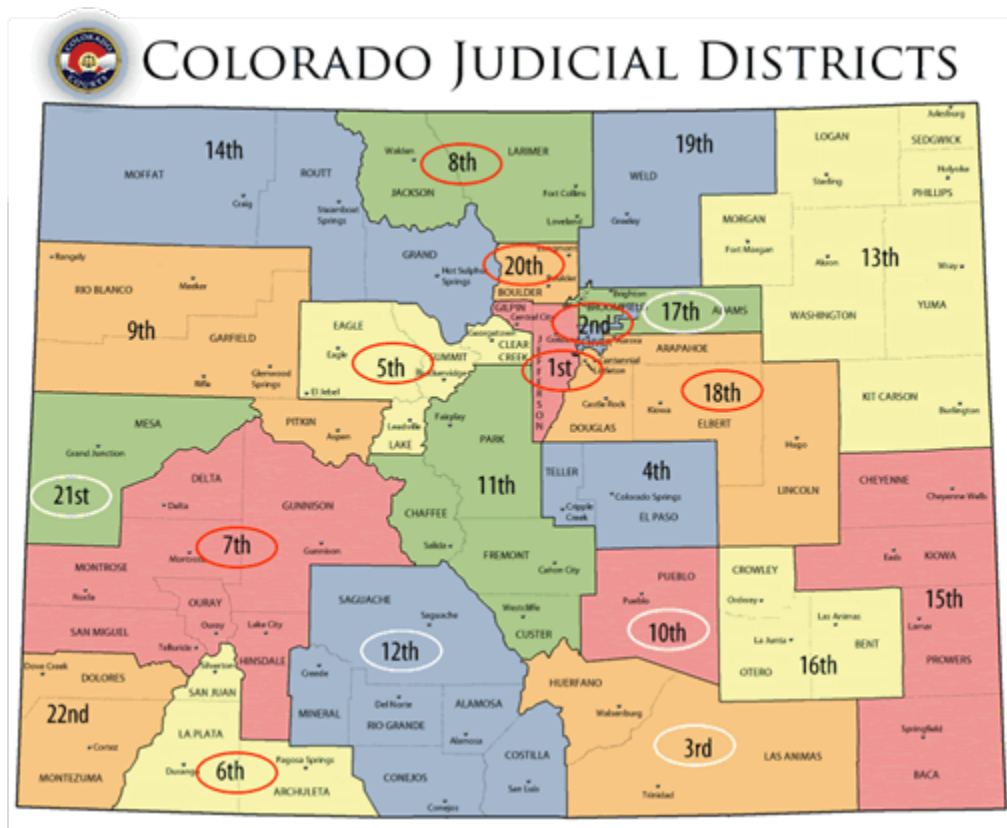


“ Colorado District Attorneys’ commitment to transparency and equity is demonstrated through the release of the recently completed disparities analysis, which allows us to move beyond data and into meaningful action. In the First Judicial District, we’re taking proactive steps to ensure our practices reflect our values by partnering with The Equity Project and Dr. Mosby-Tyler, to develop an equity lens for key decision points in case evaluation and resolution.  
– Alexis King, District Attorney 1st Judicial District ”

### Five New Judicial Districts Join the Project

We are excited that five additional DA Offices have joined the Colorado Prosecutorial Dashboard project for Phase 2. Each new site is committed to work towards data-driven decision-making and increased operational transparency.

- 3rd Judicial District Attorney’s Office (Huerfano, Las Animas)
- 10th Judicial District Attorney’s Office (Pueblo)
- 12th Judicial District Attorney’s Office (Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande, Conejos, Alamosa, Costilla)
- 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office (Adams, Broomfield)
- 21st Judicial District Attorney’s Office (Mesa)



“ Transparency is a guiding principle at the root of everything I believe a District Attorney’s Office should embody. We make important decisions every day, and need data like this to assure we avoid the possibility of unconscious bias affecting our decisions. It is my duty to make sure that, as an accountable government agency, our community has the ability to ask us tough questions to make sure we are doing the job they elected us to do with the highest ethical standards.  
– Dan Rubinstein, District Attorney 21st Judicial District ”

## Plans for Sustainability and Statewide Scale

Our goal is to create a sustainable system for using and reviewing data that all DA Offices can be a part of. We are excited to be working with the Colorado District Attorney's Council (CDAC) who oversees the Action case management system (the primary data source for the dashboards). After the grant period, CDAC will serve as the project's technical lead, purchasing software, overseeing dashboard infrastructure, and continuing to optimize Action to support data use.

We formed a Dashboard Sustainability Workgroup, with representation from the 1st, 2nd, 18th, and 20th Judicial Districts, who will work closely with CDAC and serve as the conceptual lead for future work. This group will support statewide consistency, capacity-building efforts, and priorities for dashboard improvement.

### New Resource Available: Implementation Toolkit

**We created the Colorado Prosecutorial Dashboards Implementation Toolkit as a central resource for any Office interested in developing data dashboards and using data to improve their day-to-day work. The guide provides information on reviewing, making meaning, and using data internally; engaging the community; improving data quality; and maintaining dashboard content.**

We welcome feedback and input. Our hope is that your questions and ideas will strengthen this work. Reach out any time to Jo Beletic at the Colorado Lab ([joanna@coloradolab.org](mailto:joanna@coloradolab.org))

In case you missed it, our previous newsletters can be found [here](#).



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