

Facts About State Criminal Record Repositories... ...And Why County Criminal Record Searches are Needed

Many employers and state licensing boards depend on state criminal record repositories as their primary resource when performing a criminal record background check. This can be a dangerous practice. In fact, there are four key reasons why the completeness, consistency, and accuracy of state criminal record repositories could be suspect—

1. Level of Automation
2. Level of Quality Control
3. Timeliness of Receiving Arrest and Disposition Data
4. Timeliness of Entering Arrest and Disposition Data into the Repository

Consider these examples—

- Only 25 states have fully automated criminal history files with a master name index. The remaining 25 states are partially automated.
- Only 30 states generate lists of arrests with no dispositions in order to give notice to criminal justice agencies and courts about obtaining missing dispositions.
- 12 states report they each have from 7,000 to 148,500 final court dispositions that cannot be linked to an arrest record.
- Only 21 states report they receive final felony trial court dispositions for 70% or more arrests within last 5 years.
- 27 states report they have a significant backlog (from 160 man-hours to 30,400 man-hours needed) for entering court data into the criminal history database.

The bottom line is: **For proper due diligence when performing a criminal record search, a county search of criminal records should also be conducted.**

To find a qualified criminal record researcher, visit www.brbpub.com/prrn/search.asp.

The statistics here are taken from BRB Publication's Public Record Research System and from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics's Survey of State Criminal History Information Systems, 2003 (released in 2006) found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/sschis03.htm.

State	% Arrests with Final Dispositions	% Arrests with Final Dispositions Within Last 5 Years	Average # of Days to Receive and Process Submitted Arrest Data	Average # of Days to Receive and Process Submitted Dispositions
AL	45%	65%	37	30+
AK	86%	85%	30	n/a
AR	81%	79%	37-44	60
AZ	58%	60%	1	70
CA	75%	85%	1	60
CO	17%	78%	2-4	2
CT	100%	100%	213	2-4
DE	94%	92%	2	2
DC	46%	84%	2	2
FL	70%	68%	12	63
GA	70%	82%	3	197
HI	90%	91%	1-7	57
IA	95%	84%	2	80
ID	66%	67%	42	17
IL	52%	52%	10	150

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State	% Arrests with Final Dispositions	% Arrests with Final Dispositions Within Last 5 Years	Average # of Days to Receive and Process Submitted Arrest Data	Average # of Days to Receive and Process Submitted Dispositions
IN	45%	50%	17	1
KS	50%	57%	11	21
KY	69%	59%	1-90	30
LA	40%	55%	3-15	n/a
MA	100%	100%	1-30	2
MD	80%	80%	1	61-63
ME	90%	90%	1-14	1
MI	80%	80%	15-30	1-180
MN	41%	55%	20	4
MO	76%	54%	114	n/a
MS	40%	40%	105	1000
MT	85%	85%	28	3
NC	89%	89%	1-18	1
ND	86%	86%	n/a	n/a
NE	62%	57%	25-50	180
NH	80%	87%	35-56	7-14
NJ	84%	72%	2-12	2
NM	32%	35%	75	3
NV	37%	30%	2	60
NY*	88%	90%	1	1
OH	65%	85%	15	22
OK	32%	33%	95-97	n/a
OR	50%	50%	1-22	30
PA	60%	31%	1	n/a
RI	86%	60%	1-67	5
SC	70%	85%	13	2-4
SD	98%	98%	1-10	28
TN	23%	30%	1-12	35
TX	61%	61%	1-9	30
UT	64%	60%	48-52	31
VA	84%	84%	2-8	3-16
VT	96%	96%	17	24
WA	79%	70%	4	32
WI	77%	83%	9	6
WV	40%	90%	10	n/a
WY	73%	65%	9	n/a

* NY statistics refer to the record repository maintained by the Office of Court Administration

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