

Prosecution Performance Measures

Core standards for the prosecution function, published by the American Bar Association (ABA), are extensive and detailed. The ABA addresses the practical standards and performance measures for every aspect of the prosecutorial and investigatory function. See document references for this section.

- [*Criminal Justice Standards for the Prosecution Function*](#)
- [*Prosecutorial Investigations*](#)

The following performance measures are adapted from a [study conducted by the American Prosecutors Research Institute in 2009](#) (Borakove). A third goal not included below, to promote integrity in the prosecution profession & coordination in the criminal justice system, is not included below and was not included in the study. The third goal primarily focuses on professionalism, management, and training.

Goal 1 – Promote the fair, impartial, and expeditious pursuit of justice

A. Offenders held accountable

- Convictions – ratio of convictions/cases charged
- Incarcerations – sentence length + average # of years felony offenders sentenced to incarceration
- Dismissals - ratio of public intoxication arrests to cases charged
- Placements in treatment or alternative programs – ratio of offenders sent to community court vs. total offenders in traditional court + drug court completion rate + decreased truancy
- Restitution ordered & completed

B. Case disposition appropriate for offense/ offender

- Pleas to original charge – Ratio of pleas to lesser charge/ pleas as charged
- Dispositions of like offenders and like offenses

C. Timely & efficient administration of justice

- Case disposition time (some use median disposition time)
- Time to complete restitution

Goal 2 – Ensure safer communities

A. Reduced crime

- Felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile crimes – Gun, gang, & robbery crime rates; rate of gun carrying among felons; rate of gun carrying among juveniles; juvenile violent crime rate; solicitation rates; violent crime rate; drug crime rate/ drug-related crime rate
- Prosecution outcomes - ratio of nuisance actions/calls for service; drug offender recidivism rate; domestic violence recidivism rate
- Victimization – calls for service for nuisance crimes

B. Reduced fear of crime

- Community attitudes about crime and safety – ratio of vacant homes to calls for service
- Public awareness of prosecution & outcomes – public safety index

- Dismissals - ratio of public intoxication arrests to cases charged
- Placements in treatment or alternative programs – ratio of offenders sent to community court vs. total offenders in traditional court + drug court completion rate + decreased truancy
- Restitution ordered & completed

Relative Rate Index (RRI)

This is a performance measurement model specifically developed by the Safety and Justice Challenge. The RRI provides a comparison of each racial and ethnic group to a reference group. In this case, the reference group is Whites. To calculate the RRI, a rate is calculated for each racial/ethnic group at seven decision-points in the system. The rates for each group are then divided by the rate for Whites. This allows comparisons to be made to assess the extent to which disproportionality, or disparities exist. The seven decision points are:

1. Arrest
2. Prosecutorial Charging
3. Assignment of Counsel
4. Pretrial Release
5. Case Processing
6. Disposition and Sentencing
7. Post-Conviction Supervision

Prosecutorial Charging RRI The second decision point in the model focuses on disparities in the charging decision made by prosecutors.