Comparative Practices: Prosecuting Attorneys' Data Dashboards in San Francisco and other Jurisdictions

Policy Analysis Report for Supervisor Joel Engardio

Presentation to:

PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

October 12, 2023

2010s: Many DA's launched prosecutor dashboards throughout the U.S.

- Nonprofit **Measures for Justice** advocated for and assisted in creation of prosecutor dashboards across U.S.

- **National Prosecutor Dashboard Advisory Group** established.

- **MacArthur Foundation** grants & local funding assisted in development and maintenance of prosecution dashboards.

- SFDA received MacArthur grant, established partnership with **Governance Lab** at NYU. Participated in:

  - *Data Driven Justice Initiative*, launched in 2015, and the *Justice Counts* initiative launched in 2021 *(national)*.

  - Multi-agency *Recidivism Work Group* and multi-agency *Justice Reinvestment Initiative* (*local*)

  - SFDA's office launched DA Stat to track cases and outcomes more rigorously.

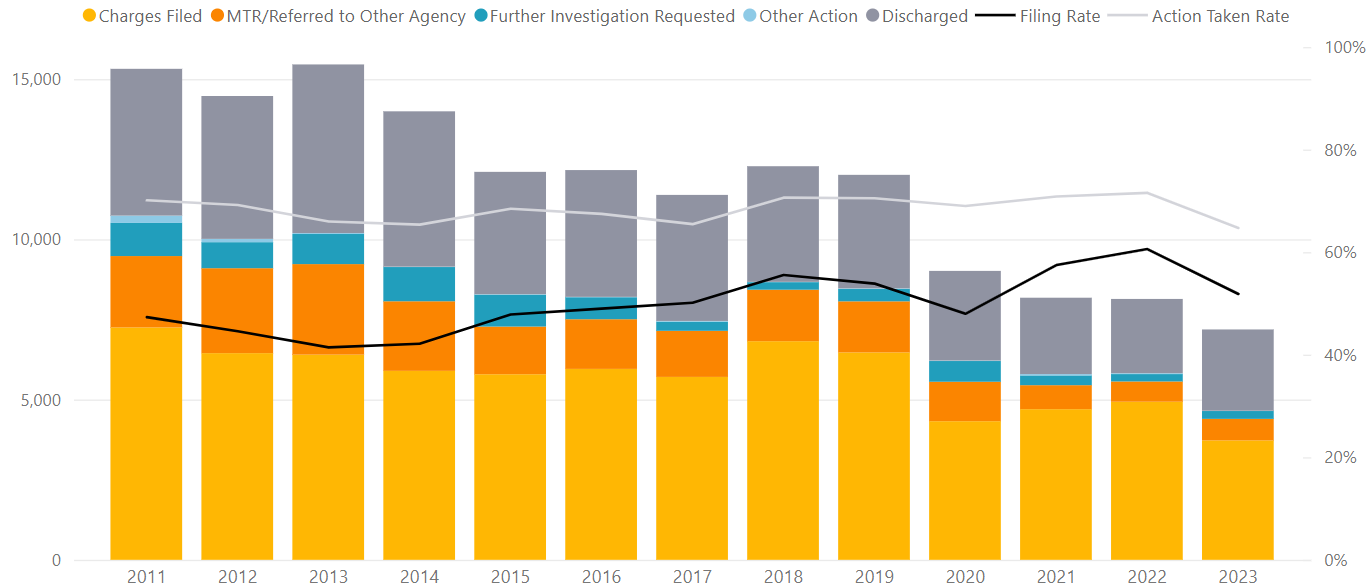 - SFDA launched public-facing dashboard in 2019.

Data dashboards

- Key agency data online in easy-to-understand visual format

- Various filters can be applied by user to see different perspectives *(multiple or single years, only certain types of cases, only for certain neighborhood, etc.).*

- Increases transparency

- Easily updated

Sample dashboard: SFDA's Office

DA's Office Actions on All Arrests Presented

Legend: ● Charges Filed ● MTR/Referred to Other Agency ● Further Investigation Requested ● Other Action ● Discharged ── Filing Rate ── Action Taken Rate

Selection Criteria

Year Presented

| 2011 | 2023 |

Case Type

| Multiple selections ⌄ |

Most Serious Charge

| All ⌄ |

DV Case

| All ⌄ |

151,709	74,429	49.06%	68.34%
Total Arrests	Cases Filed	Filing Rate	Action Taken Rate

This dashboard includes data from **ALL arresting agencies and ALL arrests presented to the SFDA**. This is why the filing and arrest rates may differ from the SFPD Incidents, Arrests and Prosecutions dashboard above, as that dashboard shows only arrests presented by the SFPD and no other agencies. In addition, this dashboard **does not include misdemeanor citations**; these cases come into the office in a different manner than other case types, which limits data tracking mechanisms.

← Go back   ≡ Annual Actions o... ⌄   ⤡

Exemplary prosecutor data dashboards reviewed for comparison

- Cook County, Illinois

- New York County (Manhattan), New York

- Yolo County, California

- Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

- King County, Washington

- Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Sources: National Prosecutor Dashboard Advisory Group, Measures for Justice website, and related literature.

Dashboard data points & filters for some or all Jurisdictions, by prosecution step

Crime Incidents & Arrests Referred to DA- *can be filtered by:*	DA Actions/ Charging Decisions - *can be filtered by:*	Case Disposition- *can be filtered by:*	Case Sentencing- *can be filtered by:*
Incident Type	Details on charges filed	Disposition type (conviction, dismissal, acquittal, etc.)	Sentencing outcome (jail, probation, state prison, etc.)
Arresting Agency			
Offense Type (Misdemeanor, Felony, etc.)	Offense Type	Offense Type	Offense Type
Offense Severity (violent, drug, etc.)	Offense severity	Offense severity	Offense severity
Offense (Burglary, Auto Theft, etc.)	Offense	Offense	Offense
Prosecuted Individual Demographics (race/ethnicity, gender, age)	Prosecuted Individual Demographics	Prosecuted Individual Demographics	Prosecuted Individual Demographics
Geographic Location (Residence, Neighborhood, Police District, or Arrest City)	Geographic Location	Geographic Location	Geographic Location
	Prosecuted individual's history	Prosecuted individual's history	Prosecuted individual's history
	Diversion to alternative programs		

Dashboard filters on comparison DA dashboards vs. SF: *Arrests Referred*

	Frequency of use in 6 Jurisdictions Reviewed	On San Francisco DA's Dashboard?
Crime Incidents and Arrests Referred to DA - *Can be filtered by:*	100%	✓
Incident Type	17%	✓
Police District	17%	✓
Offense Type (Misdemeanor, Felony, etc.)	83%	✓
Offense Severity/Group (e.g., Violent, Drug, Property, Domestic Abuse, etc.)	50%	
Offense Type (Misdemeanor, Felony, etc.)	83%	✓
Offense Severity/Group (e.g., Violent, Drug, Property, Domestic Abuse, etc.)	50%	
Offense (e.g., Burglary, Auto Theft, etc.)	83%	✓
Prosecuted Individual Demographics (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender)	67%	
Geographic Location (Residence, Neighborhood or City of Arrest)	50%	
Arresting Agency	50%	

Dashboard filters on comparison DA dashboards vs. SF: *DA Action on Referrals*

	Frequency in 6 Jurisdictions Reviewed	On San Francisco DA's Dashboard?
DA Actions and/or Charging Decisions on Arrests Referred to the DA	100%	✓
Details on Charges Filed	67%	✓
Offense Type (Misdemeanor, Felony, etc.)	50%	✓
Offense (e.g., Burglary, Auto Theft, etc.)	67%	✓
Offense severity	33%	✓
Prosecuted Individual Demographics: gender, race/ethnicity, age	83%	
Geographic Location (Residence, Commission District or City of Arrest)	50%	
Prosecuted Individual's History of Prior Felonies or Misdemeanors	17%	
Diversion to Alternative Programs	50%	

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Dashboard filters employed by comparison DA offices vs. SF: *Dispositions*

	Frequency in 6 Jurisdictions Reviewed	On San Francisco DA's Dashboard?
Case Disposition (conviction, dismissal, acquittal, etc.) **Can be filtered by:**	100%	✓
Offense Type (Misdemeanor, Felony, etc.)	83%	✓
Offense (e.g., Burglary, Auto Theft, etc.)	83%	✓
Offense severity	50%	
Prosecuted Individual Demographics: gender, race/ethnicity, age	50%	
Geographic Location (Residence, Commission District or City of Arrest)	50%	
Prosecuted Individual's history of prior felonies or misdemeanors	17%	

Dashboard filters employed by comparison DA offices vs. SF: *Sentencing*

	Frequency in 6 Jurisdictions Reviewed	On San Francisco DA's Dashboard?
Sentencing outcome (jail, probation, state prison, etc.) **Can be filtered by:**	67%	✓
Offense Type (Misdemeanor, Felony, etc.)	67%	✓
Offense (e.g., Burglary, Auto Theft, etc.)	33%	✓
Offense severity	17%	✓
Prosecuted Individual Demographics: gender, race/ethnicity, age	17%	
Geographic Location (Residence, Commission District or City and/or Neighborhood of Arrest)	67%	
Prosecuted Individual's history of prior felonies or misdemeanors	17%	
Other Measures:		
DA action rates and measures (e.g., charging rate, conviction rate, etc.)	100%	✓
Case processing efficiency	33%	
Achievement of policy goals (e. g., avoiding overcharging)	17%	

Yolo County Dashboard: allows for drilling down on all data points

Decisions after Case Review ⊗

This section is about the decisions the prosecutor's office makes every month about whether to pursue cases in court, divert them before or after filing charges in court, or fully reject them for prosecution due to any number of reasons, including lack of evidence. These decisions are made through a process called Case Review. **Note:** You can explore all cases that were diverted, whether charges were filed in court or not, in the section "Cases that Are Diverted" below.

The data here can, in most cases, be broken down by many filters (misdemeanor vs felony, or by demographics like race or age, etc., when you click on the breakdown cards).
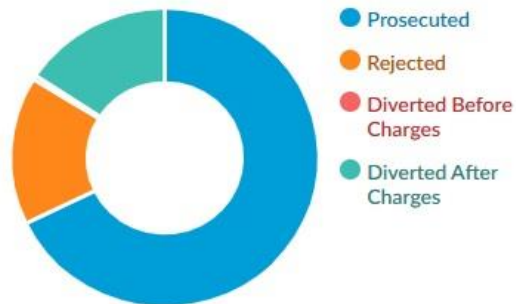
Total Cases
December 2022

655 Cases Reviewed

		655
500		
0		Dec '22

✕ FEWER DETAILS

By Prosecutor Decision

DECEMBER 2022

- ● Prosecuted
- ● Rejected
- ● Diverted Before Charges
- ● Diverted After Charges

Misdemeanors
480

Prosecuted	330	← **Click through for more detail**
Rejected	56	
Diverted Before Charges	1	
Diverted After Charges	93	

Felonies
168

Prosecuted	108
Rejected	49
Diverted Before Charges	2
Diverted After Charges	9

10

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Example: Drug cases prosecuted: Yolo vs. SF

	Yolo	SF
Felony/Misdemeanor	✓	✓
Case type (narcotics)	✓	✓
Paraphernalia	✓	
Possession/use	✓	
Distribution/manufacture	✓	
Other	✓	
Can be further filtered by:		
Gender/race/ethnicity/age	✓	
Residence	✓	
Law enforcement agency	✓	
Firearm involved	✓	

More details on charges

More case detail filters

More customized filtering

e.g., Felony drug possession cases by year, by prosecuted individuals' races, by neighborhood, & by conviction rate.

More performance measures on some other counties' dashboards

Yolo	Manhattan	Milwaukee*	San Francisco
- Percentage of cases closed - Number of cases closed - Number of cases still ongoing from previous years - For each offense and demographic data type, the number of cases closed - For each offense and demographic data type, the number of cases still ongoing from previous years	- Pleas and trial convictions by alleged offense category - Offense-level changes for cases disposed - Conviction offense by major group - Five most common conviction offenses	- Number of days between referral and filing - Number of days between filing and disposition - Acquittals for violent crimes - Cases per prosecutor - Violent recidivism - Referral rejection/acceptance rates by neighborhood - Rates of cases resolved by resolution type - Number of motions for continuance - Staff turnover - Unnecessary felony filings averted	- Number of cases closed - Median days from arrest to close - Rates of cases resolved by resolution type

Most performance measures of counties reviewed.

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SFDA's Current and Proposed Dashboard Enhancement Costs

Current (June 2023)	$123,798
Additional for enhancements	$134,418
One-time enhancement costs	($18,000)
Total annual ongoing	$240,216

Questions and comments

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Full report: https://sfbos.org/budget-legislative-analyst-reports

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