OVERVIEW

The President's Executive Order on *Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety* underscored the importance of robust data collection, analysis, and transparency at this state, Tribal, local, and territorial law enforcement agencies for the approximately 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States. Data on policing activity provides the foundation to ensure that our justice system respects the dignity and rights of all persons and provides equal treatment to all. All Americans should have access to complete, accurate, and reliable data about the full range of police activities.

LACK OF DATA

Federal Leaders engaged over 200 stakeholders from:

➤ Across the federal government
➤ Nonprofit organizations focused on/representing data, data privacy, victim advocacy, civil rights, and civil liberties
➤ State, Tribal, local, territorial, campus, and special law enforcement
➤ Defense attorneys and prosecutors
➤ Law enforcement software vendors
➤ Academics

Significant gaps were identified in how agencies collect, use, and share data on policing:

67% of law enforcement agencies submitted crime data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) as of January 1, 2023.

47% of agencies provided data to the FBI's Use-of-Force Data Collection in 2022.

Many, but not all, law enforcement agencies publish detailed data on police activities, such as calls for service, searches, stops, frisks, arrests, and complaints.

Police datasets often do not include demographic, geographic, and other variables necessary to advance more equitable policing outcomes.

BEST PRACTICES

1. **Police departments** report NIBRS and Use of Force Data to the federal government <u>and</u> publicly share timely data on their websites - including demographic, geographic, and other variables and privacy protections - for datasets like use of force, crime reports, calls for service, complaints, and community engagement.

2. **States** require and support data collection and reporting from local jurisdictions to state and national criminal justice data collections.

3. **Government entities and software vendors** work collaboratively to reduce friction in police data collection, analysis, publishing, and dissemination.

FIVE ACTIONS TO IMPROVE DATA ABOUT POLICING

To address these challenges, this report recommends five key actions to increase the quality of data about law enforcement activities:

1 Local Leaders — Should encourage law enforcement to collect detailed data, use it to design more equitable policies, and regularly share data to promote accountability.

2 States — Should mandate and support detailed data collection and sharing about police activities.

3 The Federal Government — Should simplify, standardize, and modernize the collection of law enforcement data.

4 Law Enforcement Agencies — Should build the technical capacity to consistently and transparently report data to federal collections and share data with communities.

5 All Levels of Government — Should recruit civil society representatives and data and technical experts to inform decision-making about law enforcement data collection and sharing.

DATA AMERICANS CAN COUNT ON

Improving the collection and sharing of data about policing and criminal justice practices is essential to enhancing public trust and public safety. This report recommends actions across all levels of government and the broader police data ecosystem. It builds on leading federal, state, and local efforts to catalyze positive change in police data systems.

➤ **Detailed data on searches, stops, and frisks** can inform more constructive engagement between police and the communities they serve.

➤ **Detailed calls for service data** can help communities identify unmet needs around issues such as mental health.

➤ **Greater participation in the federal data collection of arrests** can help a local community understand how their homicide rates compare to others nationwide.

TOGETHER THESE DATA:

Provide law enforcement a foundation for decision-making and a tool to build the public trust that is critical to public safety

Offer advocates tools to influence policy at the local and national levels

Provide communities the visibility with visibility into policing practices which can advance equity and enable robust public oversight.