

PRETRIAL JUSTICE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



CJI thoroughly examined our data and criminal justice system to help us better understand our own pretrial system and how it really functions. They facilitated meetings of the criminal justice stakeholders to create a new, more efficient procedure to better protect our community and reduce the negative impacts of pretrial incarceration on defendants and our community.”

—JUDGE STEVEN W. SWORD,
KNOX COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT

A growing list of states and local governments are reforming their pretrial practices to enhance fairness, reduce unnecessary costs, and protect public safety. Roughly 60 percent of jail inmates nationwide are being held while awaiting trial, and a large majority of this group is accused of nonviolent crimes. Studies show that pretrial detention is an inefficient use of public resources for lower-risk defendants who can be safely released or supervised in the community. Defendants held pretrial are more likely to be convicted and receive longer sentences than those released before their court date. In addition, legal challenges have raised questions about whether the money bail system violates defendants’ civil and constitutional rights.

The Crime and Justice Institute helps jurisdictions analyze front-end criminal justice data and develop and implement policies and practices to reduce pretrial failure and pretrial spending by connecting defendants charged with lower-level, nonviolent offenses to appropriate resources outside of a costly jail setting. With several decades of diverse criminal justice experience, the CJI pretrial team provides states and local governments with comprehensive assistance customized to meet their needs.

CJI’s services include:

- **PRETRIAL SYSTEM ASSESSMENT** to evaluate the impact of pretrial practices on jail populations and identify opportunities for reform
- **PRETRIAL RISK ASSESSMENT CREATION** to provide each jurisdiction with a unique tool tailored to its population for use in guiding release decisions by accurately predicting defendants’ risk for failure to appear and new criminal activity
- **PRETRIAL RISK ASSESSMENT SELECTION** to help jurisdictions choose and implement an existing risk assessment ensuring scoring accuracy and proper application of results
- **RISK ASSESSMENT VALIDATION** to test whether pretrial tools predict pretrial outcomes and provide courts with the best possible information for decision making



No two jurisdictions are alike, and improving pretrial systems requires careful analysis. Our data-driven approach goes far beyond cookie-cutter solutions to deliver individualized assistance based on each location's specific population and needs."

— BARBARA PIERCE,
CJI DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE
INITIATIVES

- **POLICY DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION AND IMPLEMENTATION** to help judges, prosecutors, public defenders, pretrial services staff, law enforcement, and other system professionals reach consensus on pretrial policies and carry them out effectively
- **TRAINING** that teaches pretrial services staff how to conduct risk assessments and make sound pretrial recommendations, educates criminal justice system stakeholders on the latest research and best practices, and facilitates understanding among stakeholders
- **QUALITY ASSURANCE** to ensure assessments are conducted and used as intended
- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE DEVELOPMENT** to help jurisdictions monitor the effectiveness of assessments and supervision to guide future policy change

CJI's pretrial clients:

CJI's pretrial team works with agencies across the criminal justice spectrum, from sheriff's departments to district attorney offices, probation departments, and courts. Current and past clients include:

- State of Alaska
- State of Delaware
- Davidson County, Tennessee
- Knox County, Tennessee
- Shelby County, Tennessee
- San Joaquin County, California
- Contra Costa County, California
- Humboldt County, California
- Riverside County, California
- Pennington County, South Dakota
- Minnehaha County, South Dakota
- New York City, New York

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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The Crime and Justice Institute (CJI), a division of Community Resources for Justice, works to improve public safety and the delivery of justice by providing nonpartisan technical assistance, research, and other services to improve outcomes across the spectrum of the adult and juvenile justice systems, from policing and pretrial through reentry. More information is available at www.crj.org/cji.