



OHIO CONSORTIUM OF CRIME SCIENCE AND THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

The Office of Criminal Justice Services is a Stepping Up Ohio partner and member of the Steering Committee. Their goal to help counties use data to bring about practical, workable solutions is in accordance with Stepping Up's mission to bring about solutions to problems we already know exist. OCCS projects do not need to be limited to the mental health crisis in the criminal justice system; the examples below show the range of issues they have worked on, while still maintaining a criminal justice focus.

What is the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science?

The Ohio Consortium of Crime Science, or OCCS, is a group of researchers from colleges and universities across Ohio who are available to work with local criminal justice agencies to provide evidence-based solutions to the real-world problems they face. The OCCS is implemented through the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics (OCJS).

The OCCS is available to all local criminal justice entities, from law enforcement and corrections to courts and victim services. It is the goal of the OCCS to provide local practitioners with the tools they need to make informed decisions on criminal justice issues in their community. For this reason, services provided by the OCCS are free for practitioners.

How can OCCS help you?

Here are just a few examples of the ways in which researchers have assisted practitioners:

- **Researchers have assisted local law enforcement to assess their staffing and structure, evaluate their policing districts, and provide technical assistance regarding data collection.**
- **Researchers have partnered with municipal courts to evaluate their specialized dockets.**
- **Researchers have worked with a prosecutor's office to evaluate a sexual assault and victim advocacy initiative.**
- **Researchers have worked with correctional facilities to evaluate a trauma-focused program, and to develop and implement an inmate survey.**

How does OCCS operate?

Local agencies initiate their contact with the OCCS by filling out the Request for Assistance form, which is located on the OCCS website: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/occs. In the request they are asked to identify the problem they have encountered, the kind of assistance they are looking for, and the outcomes they wish to achieve.