

# 2022 PPI YEAR IN REVIEW

**ThePPIs.org** 



# MESSAGE FROM THE PPI MANAGERS

2022 was another big year of growth for the PPIs! We are especially thankful to our funders who have supported us in the work of transforming the prosecutorial data space - MacArthur Foundation, Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Microsoft Justice Reform Initiative, and the National Institute of Justice (the United States Department of Justice).

This year, we started work with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office to create a more robust internal data culture, and use the PPIs to inform policy decisions, in line with District Attorney Alvin Bragg's vision for building community trust in the system, addressing violence, and avoiding unnecessary pretrial detention.



We were incredibly excited to see the fruit of our nearly two year project in Colorado with the release of eight dashboards. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the elected prosecutors who participated, the amazing team at the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab at the University of Denver, and the Colorado District Attorneys Council. Now that the initial cohort have completed their dashboards, we have begun work with another eight Colorado jurisdictions located further away from the metro Denver

New Orleans also launched a PPI dashboard, developed by our friends at AH Datalytics. The dashboard provides unprecedented data on case dispositions, racial disparities, and office composition. The launch included a press conference and community town hall at local HBCU Dillard University, co-hosted by the Vera Institute of Justice.

Portland created their public facing PPI dashboard earlier this year. It features the trends across 38 indicators of prosecutorial performance (the most indicators populated of any of our partner sites to date), and data stories written by line prosecutors.

Rebecca Dunlea, Melba Pearson, Don Stemen, Besiki Kutateladze



# **2022 BY THE NUMBERS**



New PPI dashboards



Statewide project in Colorado, where we are building on the 8 dashboards released this year by engaging 8 more Colorado prosecutor's offices



New publications - including 2 technical reports and 3 top-tier journal publications



Convenings - in addition to convening our elected prosecutor and research partners in Miami in March and Chicago in October, we also partnered with the Atlanta University Consortium Data to bring together researchers from HBCUs around the country to Atlanta for the purpose of identifying new research partners from impacted communities.



New homes = Dr. Rebecca Dunlea joined the faculty of University of Massachusetts Lowell while remaining co-manager of the PPIs. We also moved internally at FIU from the Center for the Administration of Justice to the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy. Being at the Gordon Institute fits our vision for the future in terms of expanding our prosecution work globally.



New grant - We were thrilled to receive \$1 million dollars from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to improve the detection, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

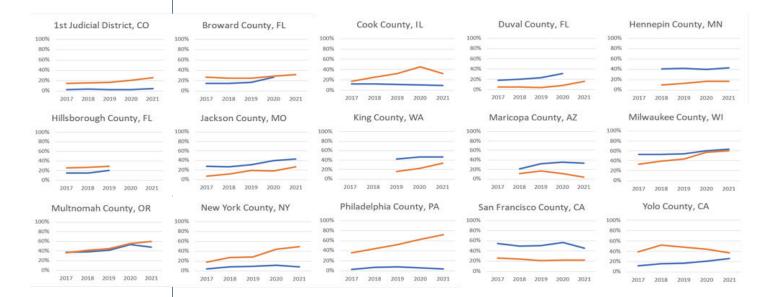


## **FEATURED INDICATOR**

#### ABILITY TO IDENTIFY DISMISSIBLE CASES AT FILING (2.1)

Our recent technical report explores the relationship between early rejection of cases and dismissals. We support thorough early screening practices that allow offices to eliminate dismissible cases as early as possible, thus reducing the financial and emotional toll on the system, defendants and victims.

Below we present trends for 15 jurisdictions' case rejection and dismissal rates. For more on this topic, see **Reject or Dismiss: A Prosecutor's Dilemma.** 



\_\_\_\_\_ % rejected at screening

\_\_\_\_ % dismissed post-screening

## **RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS**

Reject or Dismiss? A Prosecutor's Dilemma explores the relationship between rejecting cases at filing versus dismissals across 15 jurisdictions. Generally, jurisdictions that reject more cases have lower dismissal rates, with some exceptions.

To support our site work in Florida, we published the Race and Prosecution in Broward County report, which reviews racial disparities from case filing to sentencing.

In Criminology and Public Policy, we examine how adopting a new diversion program targeting lowlevel traffic offenses affects overall prosecutorial diversion decisions.

Our publication in Justice Quarterly dives into how prosecutors of various races and ethnicities make plea bargaining and charging decisions.

Lastly, our article in Criminology explores prosecutors' colorblind approach to case processing and the race-neutral cultural scripts that reinforce that approach.



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2023

We are ready for the new year.



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