AN OJBC SUCCESS IN THE FIELD

Data analytics: Offering inmate population insights by connecting county jail & behavioral health data

> *The Open Justice Broker Consortium (OJBC) is a nonprofit membership organization of government agencies and jurisdictions, dedicated to improving justice information sharing through the <u>reuse of low-cost, standards-based integration software</u>. The OJBC unlocks the power of open source software and cross-boundary collaboration to promote a more effective, efficient justice system.*

THE SITUATION: Around 2 million people with severe mental illnesses are booked into jails in the U.S. each year—accounting for nearly 20% of all male and 30% of all female inmates. The corrections officials who run our nation's jails and the public health officials who oversee the delivery of behavioral health services in counties and states have a unique challenge in managing this inmate population.

THE CHALLENGE: Many of these severely mentally ill people continuously cycle through the criminal justice and community behavioral health systems—with heavy fiscal and societal costs. This compels governments to develop response strategies that are supported by improved information sharing and quantitative analysis between these distinct systems.

Unfortunately, sharing and processing jail/behavioral health information presents a challenge in itself, due to a variety of factors. These range from policy and legal issues tied to the access and use of sensitive health data, to the fiscal drain of extracting and harmonizing data between the justice and clinical software systems.

THE RESOLUTION: To address this challenge, two counties—Pima County, Arizona, and Adams County, Colorado—recently implemented a data analytics framework that joins jail custody and behavioral health treatment history data into an anonymized form. ***Through dashboards and sophisticated querying, visualization and modeling tools, the justice and behavioral health practitioners in these counties now gain invaluable insights to the jail inmate population. This, in turn, improves their decision-making.***

They built this framework through participation in the **Open Justice Broker Consortium (OJBC)**, a collaboration of governments that promotes justice information sharing through the reuse of low-cost technology.

WHAT is it? The framework components leverage analytics software tools available at no licensing cost—and incorporate data models, dashboards, and information extraction functionality that are all freely available as well, under an open source software license. The counties saved considerable time and money to build an information sharing capability that also conforms to national standards, including the Global Information Sharing Toolkit and the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM).

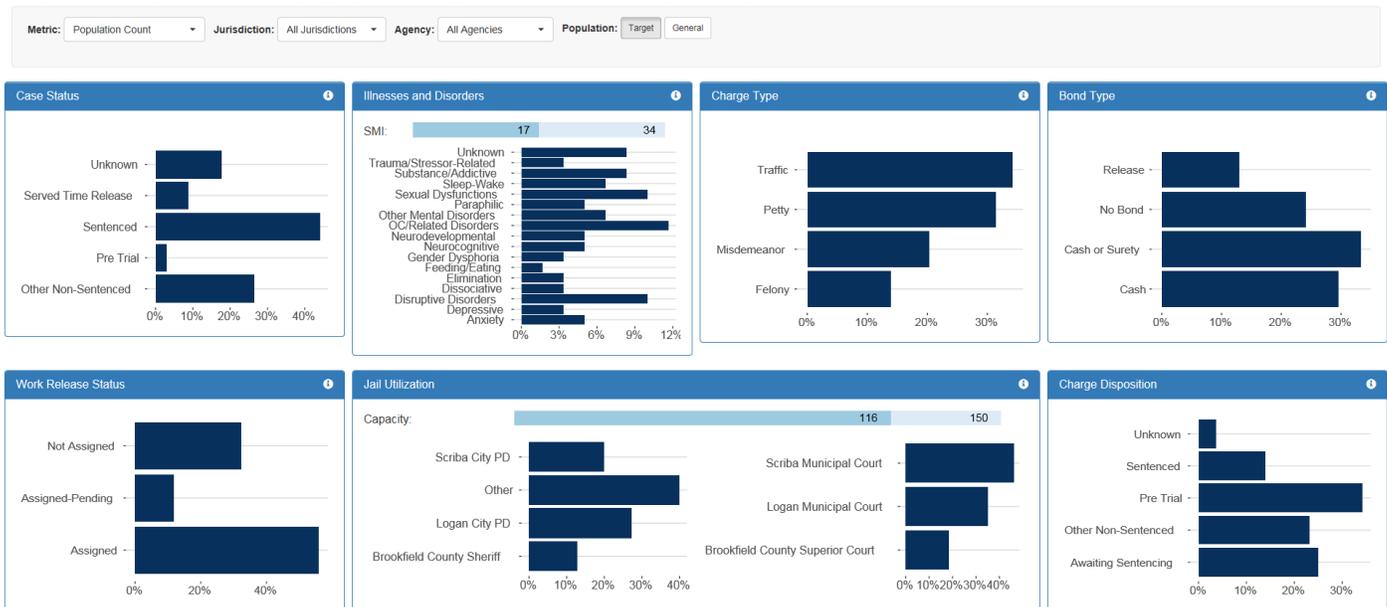|	
HOW does it work?	A defendant is booked into jail. • Within minutes, the framework sends a query to the community behavioral health provider's e-records system, asking to retrieve the defendant's treatment history. • The behavioral health provider removes all personally identifiable information from the record, attaches treatment history data, and returns it to the county. • The framework performs extensive quality checks and transformations to ensure that the data aggregations are accurate and complete. • The framework then stores the aggregate custody and behavioral health information in a secure database in an anonymized form. The data are now accessible to the analytics dashboards and query tools.
WHY should we use it?	Public safety and behavioral health agency officials have a common platform that accelerates critical information sharing about inmates in custody. For example, it enables anonymous tracking of defendants over time to measure recidivism rates. The OJBC data analytics framework is freely available, based on open standards, secure, and works on virtually any database or server platform. Its architecture enables straightforward adaptation to diverse jail management systems and behavioral health electronic records systems. Its data analytics dashboards are configurable to present key performance measures of interest to a specific jurisdiction, such as— • Defendant/inmate demographics • Homelessness status • Charges, arresting agency, court of jurisdiction • Program participation (e.g., work release, diversion, pretrial services) • Behavioral health diagnosis, treatment provider, and classifications (e.g., severe mental illness classification, in court-ordered treatment, caution flags) • Treatment dates/care episodes

Sample data analytics dashboard for jail/community behavioral treatment provider partners

*Note: Data displayed on this dashboard is fictitious and intended only for demonstration and testing purposes.

If you think this functionality could be beneficial to your organization, visit www.ojbc.org or contact us at info@ojbc.org