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## **FACT SHEET**

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### **Jury Data Report**

The Jury Data Report works to standardize, collect, and analyze fundamental measures of jury operations in the trial courts and to provide this information to court administrators, the public, legislators, and the Judicial Council. By gathering consistent and timely data for each court, the Jury Data Report supports the ongoing evaluation and improvement of the jury management system at both the local and state levels.

#### **Study Purpose and Background**

In 2002 the Judicial Council's Office of Court Research (OCR) and Jury Improvement Program (JIP) staff worked with jury managers throughout the state to identify and standardize the basic data elements necessary to monitor jury operations and to facilitate the transfer of this data to the Judicial Council (then known as the Administrative Office of the Courts, or AOC).

Since calendar year 2005, Judicial Council staff has requested essential data elements from jury managers in all 58 superior courts, including information on:

- Summoning, excusals, and disqualifications;
- Jury service completion and one day or one trial; and
- The number of panels, pools, and jurors sworn.

By working with jury system vendors and jury managers to standardize and compile this data, the Jury Data Report has provided an array of operational measures that will assist court administrators in managing their operations, improve trial court performance, and serve as measures of accountability for jury operations.

#### **Developing Performance Measures**

The development of a standardized set of jury data elements across all courts allows the state judiciary to evaluate jury operations using national jury management standards and measurements tools, such as the National Center for State Courts' CourtTools. The CourtTools use data from the Jury Data Report to create relative measures of California jury performance such as:

- **Jury yield.** This is the number of citizens selected for jury duty who are qualified and report to serve, expressed as a percentage of the total number of prospective jurors available. The percentage of citizens available to serve on a jury relates to the integrity of source lists, the effectiveness of jury management practices, the willingness of citizens to serve, and the efficacy of excuse and disqualification policies.
- **Juror utilization.** This is the rate at which prospective jurors are used at least once in trial or voir dire, expressed as the number of jurors selected as a percentage of prospective jurors qualified and available to serve. The objective of this measure is to minimize the number of unused prospective jurors—the number of citizens who are summoned, qualified, report for jury service, but are not needed.
- **Postponement ratio.** This is the rate at which courts experience numbers of jurors who postpone their service into and out of a relevant reporting period. It is expressed by dividing the number of prospective jurors who have postponed their service to a future period by the number of prospective jurors who have postponed their service to the current period. The measure helps determine if courts are experiencing periods of having too many and/or not enough jurors and prospective jurors.

## Reporting Cycle

The reporting cycle for the Jury Data Report changed from calendar year (CY) reporting to fiscal year (FY) reporting beginning in FY 2008–09. This change will more closely align with other data reporting cycles. An overlap with CY 2008 ensures that no time period was lost due to the change in reporting cycles.

## Next Steps

The Jury Data Project will continue to develop and refine standard reports that best communicate jury management data to a wider audience, including through the use of data visualization software. In addition, Judicial Council staff will continue to work closely with jury software vendors to improve data quality, minimize the workload associated with collecting this data, and expand the data elements gathered as the needs of the Judicial Council and the trial courts change. In terms of performance measurement, Judicial Council staff will further their efforts to identify areas of jury management that can be used as a relative measure of well-managed jury operations.

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