

# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

## Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief

### Completeness of Criminal History Records in Arizona, CY 2006-2015 July 2017

Our mission is to continuously address, improve, sustain and enhance public safety in the State of Arizona through the coordination, cohesiveness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System.

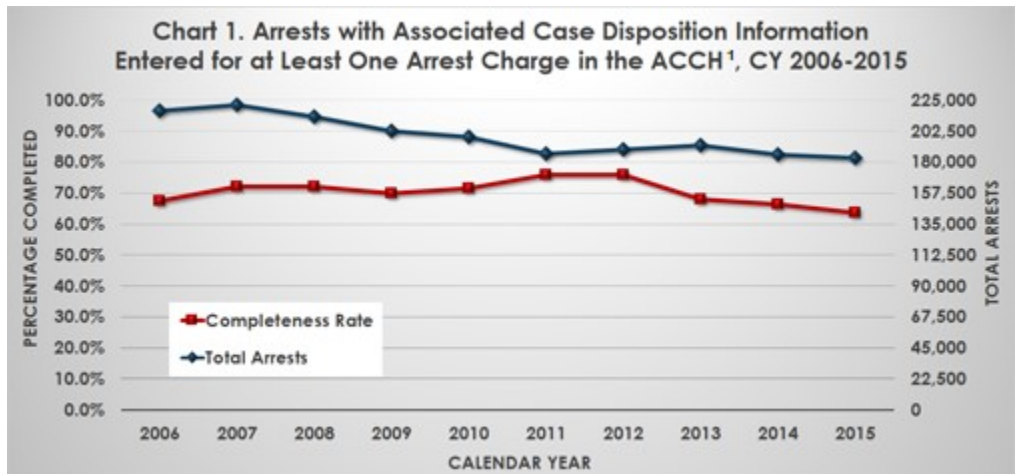


#### Arizona Computerized Criminal History Repository

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §41-1750 mandates that Arizona criminal justice agencies submit certain arrest (i.e., felony, driving under the influence, sexual and domestic violence-related) and associated case disposition information to the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) repository. A number of agencies across Arizona exceed the statute-mandated requirement and include most, if not all, felony and misdemeanor arrests in the ACCH. The Statistical Analysis Center (AZSAC) of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) uses extracts from the ACCH to assess the completeness (i.e., arrests with associated case disposition information attached to at least one arrest charge) of records on an annual basis. For trend purposes, data are standardized across years in Chart 1 and Tables 1, 3 and 4.

#### Records Completeness in the ACCH

A total of 182,880 arrests in calendar year (CY) 2015 were entered into the ACCH prior to January 1, 2017. Of the CY 2015 arrests entered, 116,221 (63.6 percent) were complete with associated case disposition information by the end of CY 2016 (see Chart 1 and Table 1). The CY 2015 completeness rate represents a ten-year low dating back to CY 2006, with the highest rate of completeness occurring in CY 2011 and 2012 (76.0 percent). Total arrests in the ACCH were lower in CY 2015 than in any of the prior nine years.



When reviewing the completeness of arrest charges in the ACCH, the percentage with disposition information attached fell to 57.4 percent in CY 2015 (see Table 1). Arrest charges eclipsed 70 percent completeness in CY 2011 and CY 2012. Chart 1 and Table 1 data are standardized to include arrest and disposition information entered in the ACCH by the end of the year following the arrest year.

**Table 1. Arrests with Associated Case Disposition Information Entered for at Least One Arrest Charge in the ACCH<sup>2</sup>, CY 2006-2015**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Arrests Available in the ACCH	217,002	221,619	212,833	202,683	198,061	186,358	189,262	192,241	185,436	182,880
Arrests with a Disposition in the ACCH	146,634	159,893	153,712	141,725	141,569	141,644	143,792	130,850	123,313	116,221
Percentage of Arrests with at Least One Charge Disposed	67.6%	72.1%	72.2%	69.9%	71.5%	76.0%	76.0%	68.1%	66.5%	63.6%
Percentage of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information	63.3%	68.0%	68.1%	64.8%	66.0%	70.9%	70.9%	61.3%	61.1%	57.4%

<sup>1,2</sup> Data includes only those arrests entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrests leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing specific date errors (e.g., disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded from the analysis.

**Table 2. Arrest Offense Categories with the Highest Number of Charges Pending Disposition Information in the ACCH<sup>3</sup>, CY 2006-2015**

Arrest Offense Statute and Description	Statute Charges Pending Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2017)	Percentage of Statute Charges Pending Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2017)
1. A.R.S. §13-2506: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Failure to Appear	107,077	33.4%
2. A.R.S. §28-1381: Driving Under the Influence	99,727	19.9%
3. A.R.S. §13-3415: Drug Paraphernalia Violation	80,251	25.5%
4. A.R.S. §13-2507: 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Failure to Appear	59,084	76.5%
5. A.R.S. §13-2904: Disorderly Conduct	55,800	21.3%
6. A.R.S. §13-3405: Marijuana Violation	52,095	24.8%
7. A.R.S. §13-1203: Assault	43,165	19.7%
8. A.R.S. §28-3473: Driving Violation	42,617	23.8%
9. A.R.S. §13-2810: Interfering with Judicial Proceedings	36,870	33.1%
10. A.R.S. §13-3904: Promise to Appear Violation	34,591	23.1%

#### Pending Disposition Information by Offense

Listed in Table 2 are the ten Arizona Revised Statute offenses that account for the highest totals of arrest charges pending case disposition information in the ACCH from CY 2006 to 2015. Table 2 also indicates the percentage these arrest charges pending disposition information make up of the total number of statute charges available in the ACCH over the ten-year period.

As has been found in previous extracts, first and second degree failure to appear charges accounted for the greatest percentage and the greatest number of arrests pending case disposition information, respectively. The findings suggest that addressing the disposition process for failure to appear charges may help Arizona's overall records completeness rates.

<sup>3</sup> Data includes all CY 2006-2015 arrest charges and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31, 2016 without date errors.

**Table 3. Percentage of Arrests with Associated Case Disposition Information for at Least One Arrest Charge in the ACCH<sup>4</sup> by County, CY 2006-2015**

County	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Apache	66.1%	65.1%	58.7%	69.0%	71.5%	66.6%	69.3%	62.5%	49.7%	50.8%
Cochise	64.9%	71.7%	66.8%	74.4%	69.6%	74.7%	71.0%	74.1%	75.5%	67.7%
Coconino	56.6%	67.8%	61.5%	47.0%	70.2%	64.8%	78.7%	74.1%	74.5%	74.5%
Gila	57.8%	58.2%	64.2%	66.7%	68.7%	79.2%	80.8%	61.4%	53.6%	43.7%
Graham	63.9%	72.4%	76.6%	75.1%	77.5%	80.5%	81.8%	81.9%	76.9%	78.9%
Greenlee	40.7%	74.9%	82.8%	72.0%	77.8%	73.4%	68.4%	83.5%	75.8%	79.1%
La Paz	44.4%	27.9%	36.1%	36.3%	57.8%	65.7%	81.4%	65.1%	72.5%	63.7%
Maricopa	71.3%	76.8%	77.8%	73.1%	73.0%	78.8%	78.3%	69.3%	67.0%	68.7%
Mohave	66.5%	66.6%	68.2%	74.1%	74.7%	73.9%	74.7%	73.3%	78.3%	76.0%
Navajo	40.4%	52.3%	53.4%	55.5%	56.5%	54.8%	63.2%	59.5%	58.3%	48.4%
Pima	65.6%	67.8%	62.8%	64.9%	69.7%	75.4%	73.0%	68.5%	64.3%	48.8%
Pinal	69.4%	69.3%	70.9%	74.0%	74.0%	75.2%	75.0%	49.0%	46.9%	35.1%
Santa Cruz	62.2%	57.7%	75.9%	79.3%	70.8%	71.3%	78.9%	73.4%	74.3%	66.5%
Yavapai	71.3%	76.5%	77.4%	79.8%	81.9%	85.6%	86.7%	84.0%	86.4%	82.8%
Yuma	76.4%	77.1%	77.7%	71.0%	71.5%	74.1%	64.9%	73.5%	79.1%	73.4%
Arizona	67.6%	72.1%	72.2%	69.9%	71.5%	76.0%	76.0%	68.1%	66.5%	63.6%

<sup>4</sup> Data includes arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded.

**County Disposition Completion Rates**

The percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information is available by the county where the arrest took place (see Table 3). Six counties in Arizona recorded disposition information in the ACCH for at least 70 percent of arrests made in CY 2015, a decrease from nine counties in CY 2014. Of all 15 counties, only Yavapai County had a completion rate greater than 80 percent in CY 2015 at 82.8 percent. Four counties had completion rates lower than 50 percent in CY 2015.

From CY 2006 to 2015, nine counties experienced increases in the percentage of arrests entered into the ACCH with case disposition information attached (see Table 3). When examining year-over-year change, a total of four counties realized an increase in disposition completeness from CY 2014 to 2015. As in Chart 1 and Table 1, the data in Table 3 are standardized across years for comparison purposes.

**Disposition Completion Rates by Offense Type**

The data in Table 4 address the percentage of arrests with case disposition information entered in the ACCH by offense type (i.e., misdemeanor-only vs. felony). The rate of misdemeanor-only arrests with associated case disposition information increased to a ten-year high of 78.0 percent in CY 2012 before dropping to a low of 65.6 percent in CY 2015. Records completion percentages for felony arrests also reached a high of 73.0 percent in CY 2008 and CY 2011 before falling to a low of 60.3 percent in CY 2015. With the exception of CY 2008, misdemeanor-only arrests were more likely to have case disposition information entered in the ACCH when compared to felony arrests. Similar to Tables 1 and 3, Table 4 is standardized to include arrests entered into the ACCH by the end of the calendar year following the year of arrest. Arrests are “complete” if the case disposition data was similarly entered by the end of the year following the arrest.

**Table 4. Percentage of Arrests with Associated Case Disposition Information for at Least One Arrest Charge in the ACCH<sup>5</sup> by Offense Type, CY 2006-2015**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Percentage of Arrests Involving Felony Charges with at Least One Charge Disposed	64.2%	70.7%	73.0%	67.7%	66.3%	73.0%	72.3%	60.7%	61.3%	60.3%
Percentage of Misdemeanor-Only Arrests with at Least One Charge Disposed	69.5%	72.9%	71.8%	71.1%	74.2%	77.6%	78.0%	72.2%	69.5%	65.6%

<sup>5</sup> Data includes arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrests with all charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or charges containing date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded.

**Electronic vs. Paper Disposition Submissions**

Table 5 displays the percentage of disposition charges submitted to the ACCH by calendar year and method of submission. Data indicate that CY 2016 was the first year when the Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS) was the predominant method of disposition submission to the ACCH. Use of the ADRS increased from 33.9 percent in CY 2015 to 50.8 percent in CY 2016. Electronic submission via E-Dispo was used for 7.5 percent of disposition charges entered into the ACCH in CY 2016. Over the 11 years observed, the paper submission rate decreased from 90.3 percent in CY 2006 to 41.7 percent in CY 2016.

**Table 5. Percentage of Disposition Charges<sup>6</sup> by Disposition Submission Type CY 2006-2016**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Charges Electronically Submitted through E-Dispo	9.7%	7.1%	7.0%	6.9%	6.5%	7.3%	5.2%	6.2%	7.0%	5.8%	7.5%
Charges Electronically Submitted through ADRS	0.0%	6.8%	14.2%	14.6%	14.2%	12.8%	18.7%	18.4%	19.7%	33.9%	50.8%
Charges Submitted via Paper Submission	90.3%	86.1%	78.8%	78.4%	79.2%	79.9%	76.1%	75.5%	73.3%	60.3%	41.7%

<sup>6</sup> Data includes all disposition charges entered into the ACCH during the calendar year.

**Conclusion**

AZSAC researchers compiled the data in this report using an ACCH data extract provided by the Arizona Department of Public Safety in January 2017. The annual processing of subsequent case disposition data for arrests within each given year has decreased since CY 2012. The annual completeness rate for arrests decreased from a ten-year high of 76.0 percent in CY 2012 to a low of 63.6 percent in CY 2015 (see Chart 1 and Table 1). The ACJC outlines the following recommendations to improve disposition completion rates: 1) address pending 1st and 2nd degree failure to appear disposition information, 2) improve the processing of felony charges, and 3) identify best practices in high completeness counties for other counties to implement.

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