



# Research Questions and Data Collection for Minimum Terms Pursuant to HCR 23

Presented by Erin Harbinson, PhD

Prepared by Samuel Choi, PhD



# Overview

- Review research partnership to fulfill HCR 23 goals
- Summarize research methods including data and limitations to current data systems
- Introduce and discuss research questions with task force members

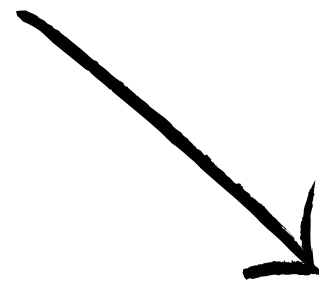


# Research Partnership for HCR23

HCSOC is chairing the task force to ensure members complete requirements established by the Legislature



Prioritizes and clarifies research priorities



HCR 23 requires the Criminal Justice Research Institute to provide assistance to the task force



Identifies data sources and research agenda

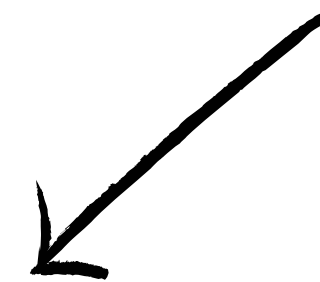


Review findings and prepare for task force members to inform discussions

CSG Justice Center is partnering with HCSOC and providing technical assistance including research support at no cost to the state



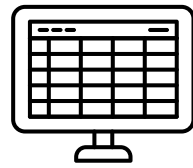
Prepares and analyzes data on trends and research questions





# Research Methods

# Sources of Data



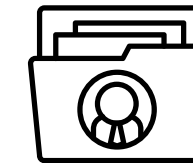
OffenderTrack electronic extractions (Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation)

- Data files from past 15 years of prison admissions & releases
- Important dates on sentencing i.e., start of prison sentence, minimum term/first parole eligibility, end date, release date
- Demographics i.e., age, gender, race/ethnicity
- Instant offense information i.e., most serious offense for conviction



On-site file review of parole files (Hawai'i Paroling Authority)

- Review files from three months of minimum term hearings & enter data in spreadsheet
- Information from the minimum term hearing including the date, the factors recorded in the minimum term hearing forms/guidelines, the minimum term set for each conviction, and reason provided by board for minimum term set



Criminal history records from CJIS electronic extractions (Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, Department of Attorney General)

- Data files on arrests and convictions for individuals
- Demographics i.e., age, gender, race/ethnicity
- County i.e., for arrest and sentencing

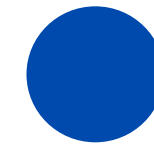
\*This is not an exhaustive list of all data, but a list of some key data elements



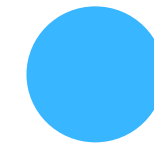


# Barriers to Data Collection & Research

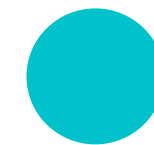
Data analysis on minimum terms is limited to the information collected by agencies, especially in electronic form



Technology: HPA cannot extract electronic files for research purposes, as a result research staff need to read minimum term hearing files on-site and enter data manually.



Disconnected: Data on sentencing and time served can be found across more than one database including prisons, courts, and arrest records.



Timing: Some questions require more complex statistical models or more data sources, therefore longer timeframes are needed to prepare the data for analyses on certain sentencing trends.



# Research & Data Agreements

Data sharing agreements will be followed by participating researchers

Datasets will be stored in secure electronic file storage

Individuals will not have their names or other identifying information stored in the dataset

Results will be presented at the aggregate level such as metrics or trends





# Research Questions



# RQ# 1



What trends exist in minimum terms,  
and how might they vary over time  
and why might they vary?



# RQ# 2



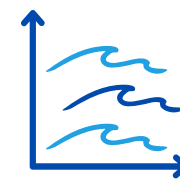
What are trends over time around the reduction of minimum terms?



# RQ# 3



How often does HPA hold minimum term hearings and how quickly are those hearings held once an individual is sentenced?



# RQ# 4



How does the current process to set minimum terms fulfill the administration of justice?



# RQ# 5

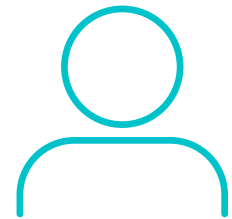


How does the current process to set minimum terms impact rehabilitative sentencing goals?





# Research Question Discussion



What are some of the data gaps?

- Interviews with individuals who have gone through minimum term hearings
- Sentencing data
- Any others?



Are there any specific questions within the topics presented that are really important to you?

Are there questions we have not asked?

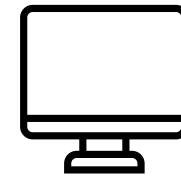


# Thank you!

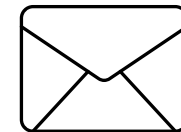
Feel free to contact us  
if you have any questions.

# Contact Information

Please contact us any time  
for questions or to learn  
more about what we are  
doing.



[cjrihawaii.com](http://cjrihawaii.com)



[CJRI@courts.hawaii.gov](mailto:CJRI@courts.hawaii.gov)



Criminal Justice Research Institute  
The Judiciary - State of Hawai'i  
417 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI  
96813-2943



(808) 539-4881

