

# DANE COUNTY PSA RCT UPDATE

CJC-Pretrial Subcommittee Meeting  
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HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
Center on the Legal Profession

# Brief Overview

Since the RCT launched on April 11, 2017, the A2J Lab has

- continued monitoring PSA data integrity (e.g., complete judicial decision information)
- reviewed the outstanding QA reports on Assessor inputs
- responded to media inquiries
- worked with the local research team to develop various data protocols (e.g., whether and how to re-calculate PSAs between hearings)

# Wins and Challenges

## ■ Wins (Your Colleagues)

- Hiring of Isabel Anadon to create system for matching data across PROTECT, Spillman, CCAP, and other sources
- Continued excellence from the Assessors: Clark Rodgers & Rhonda Frank-Loron
- No (known) mishaps with randomized provision of the PSA to Commissioners

# Wins and Challenges

- Challenges (Predictable)
  - Unknown but predictable understanding and resolving issues with key data sources
  - Also predictable challenges—all resolved to date—with ensuring compliance with RCT needs (e.g., questions over whether and how to re-calculate PSAs between hearings)

# Other Jurisdictions

## ■ Iowa

- Three (of 99) counties have launched the PSA, one (Polk) with an RCT
- One more county (Linn) will go live this summer with the PSA and an RCT
- All other counties will continue to adopt after training
- Most counties do not have pretrial services staff who can generate PSA reports, which makes implementation look like Dane County's
- RCTs will pursue the same questions as in Dane County, except Linn County will randomize *persons*, rather than cases

# Other Jurisdictions

## ■ Utah

- Every county will go live at the same time (Summer 2018), and the PSA will be available during the judges' probable cause review
- Standard PSA/no-PSA RCTs planned for Davis, Morgan/Weber, and Utah Counties
- Salt Lake County, which has used a local risk assessment for 5 years, will test whether random provision of pretrial interview responses improves outcomes relative to the PSA alone
- Utah's PSA will be fully automated; the state has invested much time and money in this new system

# Timelines

- Data cleaning/merging will continue apace
- A2J Lab Site Visits
  - First: April 2017
  - Second: April-May 2018
  - Third: April-May 2019
- Interim data report: March 2020
  - This report will use cases from the first year of randomization (April 2017 – April 2018)
- Final data report: April 2022

# Contact Us

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