

Data Inventory Report

Maine Interagency Data Assessment

Public Consulting Group LLC

September 2022



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CONSULTING GROUP

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INTRODUCTION

Established in 2006, the Maine Justice for Children Task Force (Task Force) is comprised of a collaborative, multidisciplinary group of members whose mission is to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth in Maine's child welfare system. Through various initiatives, the Task Force is focused on identifying the strengths that contribute to the safety, permanency and well-being of Maine's children and the barriers and challenges that may have a negative impact on realizing positive outcomes for children and youth. An important step is to identify where disproportionality may exist across the different family-and-children-serving systems that engage with one another. Project partners include the Department of Corrections (MDOC), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Maine Judicial Branch (MJB), and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS).

As a part of its role within the Task Force, the Committee on Race and Equity (Committee) is specifically interested in understanding trends and outcomes related to ten specific data points for individuals known to MJB and the other four project partners and addressing potential disparities. Those ten data points include:

1. Race,
2. Ethnicity,
3. Connection with Tribe/Band/Nation,
4. Tribal Enrollment,
5. Sexual Orientation,
6. Income,
7. Location,
8. Biological Sex,
9. Gender Identity, and
10. Disability.

As a foundational component to this effort, the Committee aimed to understand and assess current data collection, housing, sharing, and reporting practices as they relate to the ten data points of interest across five project partners – OCFS, DOE, MDOC, DPS and MJB.

To complete this assessment, MJB, on behalf of the Committee, contracted with Public Consulting Group (PCG) to complete an Interagency Data Assessment. This *Data Inventory Report*, the first of two deliverables to be completed under that project, provides a mapping of the existing availability of data and practices across the five systems. With a solitary focus on the ten data points, this assessment seeks to clearly define current data collection and reporting practices across MJB and its four project partners, create a practical data inventory based on current practices, provide national best practices for interagency data sharing, and provide recommendations for next steps toward strengthening the robustness of the availability of data specific to the ten data points of interest. These efforts aim to support the Committee and the broader Task Force in their ability to use data to identify and address potential disproportionality within the systems serving children and families.

PROJECT PARTNERS

As a first step in identifying the extent to which the ten data points are collected by each of the project partners, and the extent to which the data are used and shared, it is important to understand the systems that children and families involved in the child welfare system are often known.

DOE aims to provide educational access from Pre-Kindergarten through adulthood for all Maine children in a manner that leads to future success in both life and career. The DOE strives to engage and challenge

every student appropriately by providing individualized learning opportunities to promote success and achievement for each student.¹

DPS oversees the state's safety bureaus and ensures efficient delivery of services provided by those agencies. Agencies overseen by the DPS include:

- Capitol Police,
- Consolidated Emergency Communications,
- Maine Criminal Justice Academy,
- Drug Enforcement,
- Emergency Medical Services,
- Fire Marshal's Office,
- Gambling Control,
- Highway Safety, and
- Maine State Police.

MDOC provides the direction and general administration, planning, and guidance for adult and juvenile correctional facilities and programs. The mission of MDOC is to make "our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change and restoring lives."² The MDOC operates under the values of Accountability, Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Commitment. Additionally, the MDOC is intentionally focused on "respecting and reflecting the unique experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives" of employees, residents, and communities served.³

MJB is Maine's state court system, comprising the Supreme Judicial Court, the Superior Court, the District Court, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. The mission of the judicial branch is "to administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient and impartial system of dispute resolution that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law."⁴

OCFS is committed to ensuring the safety, stability, health, and happiness of all Maine children. OCFS works to achieve this commitment by:

- Administering Maine's child welfare system,
- Overseeing fostering and adoption services,
- Regulating childcare facilities and providers,
- Assisting Maine families in accessing and paying for child care, and
- Facilitating access to child behavioral health services.⁵

THE DATA POINT SET

Before exploring the existing frameworks for collecting, storing, and sharing the ten data points, PCG first defined each data point to ensure that prior to collecting information on current data processes for the data points of interest, all stakeholders had a common understanding of the specific data element being referenced.

¹ Maine Department of Education. (2020). About. Retrieved from <https://www.maine.gov/doe/about>

² State of Maine Department of Corrections. (2020). About. Retrieved from <https://www.maine.gov/corrections/about>

³ State of Maine Department of Corrections. (2020). About. Retrieved from <https://www.maine.gov/corrections/about>

⁴ State of Maine Judicial Branch. (2020). About the Maine Judicial Branch. Retrieved from <https://www.courts.maine.gov/about/index.html>

⁵ State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services. (2021). About Us. Retrieved from <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/about-us>

Race – According to the U.S. Census Bureau, race is a person’s self-identification with one or more social groups.⁶

Ethnicity – The U.S. Census Bureau refers to ethnicity as the determination of whether a person is “of Hispanic decent or not.”⁷

Connection with Tribe/Band/Nation – Connection with Tribe/Band/Nation refers to whether an individual self-identifies as belonging to a specific tribe/band/nation and does not require official enrollment.

Tribal Enrollment – Tribal enrollment refers to whether an individual is officially enrolled as a member of a tribe/band/nation.

Sexual Orientation – According to the American Psychological Association, “sexual orientation refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to men, women, or both sexes. Sexual orientation also refers to a person’s identity based on those attractions, related behaviors, and membership in a community of others who share those attractions.”⁸ Further, sexual orientation is a multidimensional social construct which incorporates “emotional, romantic, and sexual attraction, identity, and behavior,” per the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.⁹ In this context, sexual attraction refers to, “the gender(s) of the people to whom someone feels physically or romantically attracted to.”¹⁰ This distinction between sexual attraction and sexual orientation is important to have for those who may not be sexually active. Sexual behavior refers to “the gender(s) of one’s sexual partners.” Self-identification or sexual orientation identity is “the cognitive as well as social expression of one’s sexual orientation” and is often characterized as reflecting an individual’s sense of self in relation to romantic and/or sexual attraction to particular gender(s).

Income – Income refers to the money received on an annual basis by a client, or, in the case of a child, that of the client’s family.

Location – Location refers to the primary street address of a client.

Sex (assigned at birth) – Sex refers to a complex construct based on anatomical and physiological traits, also called sex traits.¹¹ Though commonly treated as interchangeable terms, sex is conceptually distinct from gender, which links “gender identity, gender expression, and social and cultural expectations about status, characteristics, and behavior that are associated with sex traits.”

Gender Identity – According to the American Psychological Association, gender identity “refers to a person’s internal sense of being male, female, or something else; gender expression refers to the way a person communicates gender identity to others through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice or body characteristics.”¹²

⁶ United States Census Bureau. Race & Ethnicity. Retrieved from <https://www.csb.us/home/showpublisheddocument/5935/637356700118370000>

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ American Psychological Association. (2022). Sexual orientation and homosexuality. Retrieved from [Answers to your questions for a better understanding of sexual orientation and homosexuality \(apa.org\)](https://www.apa.org/answers-to-your-questions-for-a-better-understanding-of-sexual-orientation-and-homosexuality)

⁹ <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/26424/chapter/1>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² American Psychological Association. (2022). Transgender people, gender identity and gender expression. Retrieved from [Answers to your questions about transgender people, gender identity, and gender expression \(apa.org\)](https://www.apa.org/answers-to-your-questions-about-transgender-people-gender-identity-and-gender-expression)

Disability – According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.¹³ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act adapted the ADA definition to meet its needs for defining eligibility, stating that a disability means “a physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment.”¹⁴ Additionally, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) defines a child with a disability as “a child evaluated...as having an intellectual disability, a hearing impairment, (including deafness), a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment (including blindness), a serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, an other health impairment, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities, and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.”¹⁵

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

PCG compiled information from several sources to complete the Data Inventory. First, the self-assessment completed by each project partner was reviewed to capture preliminary information about the ten data points. Those self-assessments included information on whether the project partner collects those data points, and if so, how they are collected. PCG conducted fifteen interviews across the project partners to learn more about how the data are collected, their structure and source, whether and how the data is stored internally, and data sharing practices for each data point. The breakdown of those interviews is as follows:

- Three interviews with MDOC,
- Two interviews with DPS,
- Four interviews with MJB,
- Four interviews with OCFS, and
- Two interviews with DOE.

Interviewees included project partner leadership as well as staff that have specific roles relating to the collection, storage, reporting, and sharing of the ten data points. Interviews delved deeper into the details of data practices related to four domains:

- **Data Availability and Obstacles**, exploring the availability of the ten data points both within and outside of the project partner, and identifying their differences and similarities;
- **Data Reporting**, exploring the data currently collected by the project partner, how those data are maintained and made available, and how accessible the data are;
- **Data “Wish Lists,”** exploring data and outcomes that key stakeholders believe would be beneficial to the shared goals of the project partner; and
- **Program Intersections**, exploring the extent to which data are currently shared, how and to whom they might be reported.

Following these interviews, PCG conducted email-based follow-ups to confirm accurate characterization of the information collected as well as to gather any additional information needed to fill gaps and clarify understanding. PCG then compiled and reviewed the information collected across the three sources (self-assessments, interviews, and follow-ups) to create a series of matrices to establish a working data inventory.

¹³ ADA National Network. (2022). What is the definition of disability under the ADA? Retrieved from <https://adata.org/faq/what-definition-disability-under-ada>

¹⁴ Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute. 29 U.S. Code §705 – Definitions. Retrieved from [29 U.S. Code § 705 - Definitions | U.S. Code | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute \(cornell.edu\)](https://www.law.cornell.edu/usc/usc.html)

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Education. (2022). Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: Sec. 300.8. Child with a disability. Retrieved from <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/a/300.8>

DATA POINT INVENTORY

The following Data Point Inventory breaks down the current data collection, housing and sharing practices for each data point across the five project partners. The inventory is divided by data point, providing a tabular representation of which project partners collect, receive, house and/or share that data point, accompanied by important contextual information.

It is best to understand how each term is defined before examining the content of the inventory:

- **Collect** refers to the gathering of specific data points by a project partner, for instance via an intake form.
- **Receive** refers to instances when data is provided by one project partner to another.
- **House** refers to the storage of a specific data point by a project partner.
- **Share** refers to instances where a project partner provides data to another entity.
- **Client** refers to the individuals for which data is collected by a project partner, such as a child or youth, a parent or guardian, or other family members.

The data points are designed to identify the extent to which the project partners collect data in a structured or coded (**C**) format, versus one where the data point is only captured in narrative (**N**) form; which project partners receive case-level data from one or more of the other project partners; if data are stored or saved (yes **✓** or no **✗**); and if data are shared in the aggregate (**A**) or at the client or individual level (**I**).

RACE AND ETHNICITY

While individuals' race and Hispanic or Latino/a ethnicity are separate components of identity, PCG's review of the project partners' data processes indicated that processes are nearly the same for both race and ethnicity. Therefore, to avoid redundancy, race and ethnicity are presented in this report together, with differences noted where appropriate.

Figure 1 below summarizes the extent to which each of the five project partners collects, receives, houses and/or shares data related to the race and ethnicity of clients served.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	C	C	N	C	C
Receive?	✗	OCFS	✗	DOE	✗
House?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Share?	C	A	✗	I	I

FIGURE 1: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINTS: RACE & ETHNICITY

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections collects the race and ethnicity of clients served via an intake form that is completed by the client upon intake to an MDOC facility. The data points are housed in MDOC's electronic offender management system, CORIS®. MDOC does not receive aggregate or case-level race or ethnicity data from the other project partners, nor does MDOC share such data with other entities, either in the aggregate or at the case level, except on an infrequent, *ad hoc* basis.

However, MDOC partners with the Cutler Institute at the University of Southern Maine to produce an annual report on youth recidivism. This report provides details on rates of recidivism based on offense type and diversion type, and provides a breakdown of this data by race, age, and sex. In part, this report

aims to identify disproportionality in the juvenile justice system in Maine.¹⁶ Additionally, MDOC participates in the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP), which collects offender-level information from state departments of correction. For this, MDOC reports inmate-level race and ethnicity data. The five federal race categories and three federal ethnicity categories are used to report this data, although NCRP only permits a single race category to be identified for each inmate, inclusive of the six options described above, as well as options for “Other” and “Two or More Races.”

Maine Department of Education

The Maine Department of Education collects the race and ethnicity of children and youth enrolled in a primary or secondary educational setting via an intake form that is completed by the youth or his/her parent or guardian at the beginning of each school year and updated quarterly throughout the school year. The data points are housed in DOE’s internal student information management system, Synergy®. DOE shares aggregated race and ethnicity data on clients enrolled in school with the federal government on an annual basis. In addition, DOE and OCFS share client-specific race and ethnicity data, for those clients served by both project partners – that is, children (and parents/caregivers) involved with child protection cases who are enrolled in a secondary educational institution.

Maine Judicial Branch

The Maine Judicial Branch is in the process of implementing a new case management system (Odyssey) to replace the Maine Justice Information System (MEJIS), which has been in use since the 1990s. The Maine Judicial Branch does not collect the race or ethnicity of children or families involved in child protection cases, although the race and/or ethnicity of the parties to court proceedings may be referenced within the narratives of individual court filings.

Office of Child and Family Services

The Office of Child and Family Services collects the race and ethnicity of children and parents served in child protection cases at the time a client becomes known to the project partner, usually through a report of abuse or neglect. While those data points are housed in OCFS’s case management system, Katahdin, they are officially maintained in the Department of Health and Human Services’ system ACES, which is maintained and operated by the Office of Family Independence (OFI). The race and ethnicity of the client will generally be initially reported based on the visual observation of the person making the report. Each client’s race and ethnicity may be updated over the life of the case as the client clarifies their self-identification. OCFS reports client-specific data to the federal Administration for Children & Families (ACF) under two reporting frameworks. Data are sent to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) annually to disclose information about individual victims and perpetrators alleged to have been involved in reports of abuse or neglect, including their race and ethnicity. In addition, the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis & Reporting System (AFCARS) is a mechanism by which OCFS submits case-level data twice yearly on children in out-of-home care during the preceding six-month period, including the race and ethnicity of the child and (where applicable) the foster parent(s) with whom the child most recently resided.

¹⁶ Wheeler, T., & Dumont, R. (2021). *Youth Recidivism: Diversion to Discharge in Maine’s Juvenile Justice System*. Maine Statistical Analysis Center. University of Southern Maine.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety collects the race and ethnicity of children and families who are involved with law enforcement as an alleged victim or offender, based on the visual identification of the law enforcement officer investigating the incident. The data points are housed within DPS's case management system, Spillman Flex®. On an ongoing monthly basis, DPS reports the race and ethnicity of victims and offenders at the client level to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

- American Indian / Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black / African American
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- White
- Unable to Determine

FIGURE 2: RESPONSE OPTIONS: RACE

Comparison of Response Options

The four project partners that collect and house information on the race of clients in coded form use the same array of five options in a "select all that apply" format, as listed in Figure 2. The Maine Judicial Branch does not collect, in a systemic way, the race of parties involved in child protection cases; the Odyssey system to which they are migrating uses that same array of options, albeit as a single option only, in addition to Multi-Racial, Other, and Unavailable. In addition, the "American Indian / Alaska Native" option is coded within Odyssey as "Indian."

- Hispanic/Latino ethnicity
- Not Hispanic/Latino
- Unknown ethnicity

FIGURE 3: RESPONSE OPTIONS:
ETHNICITY

In a similar vein, each of the four project partners use the same three options to capture the ethnicity of the client, with the options listed in Figure 3. When recording a client's ethnicity only one response option may be selected. The options used for race and ethnicity are based on the federal Office of Management and Budget's 1997 "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity."¹⁷ While the Maine Judicial Branch does not consistently capture the ethnicity of parties in child protection cases, where the data point is available, it may be coded in Odyssey as Hispanic, Non-Hispanic or Refused.

Current Framework and Potential Opportunities for Sharing Data

As illustrated in Figure 4 below, three of the five project partners share data on the race of clients served within its system with other entities:

- The Department of Education shares aggregate data on children and youth enrolled in secondary educational facilities with the United States Department of Education.
- OCFS shares case-level data on both reports of abuse or neglect, and children removed from the home, through the NCANDS and AFCARS federal reporting mechanisms, respectively.
- MDOC shares case-level incarceration data with the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) through the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP).
- The Department of Education and OCFS share case-level data on a regular basis through a bi-directional data interface. This allows both project partners to stay informed about updates to the circumstances surrounding those shared clients.
- The Department of Public Safety shares case-level victim and offender data with the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the NIBRS reporting framework.

¹⁷ Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, 62 Fed. Reg. 58,782 (October 30, 1997)

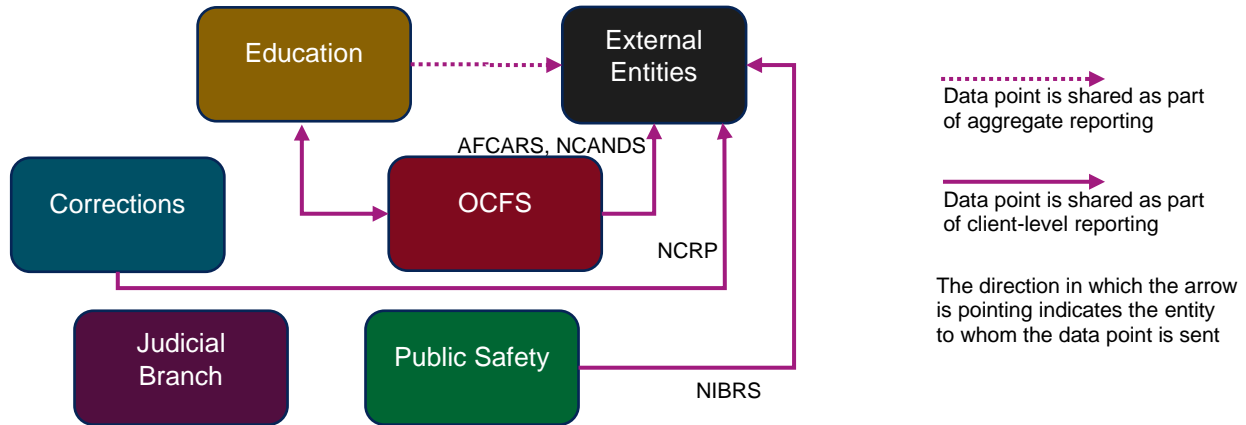


FIGURE 4: HOW DATA POINT IS TRANSMITTED AMONG PROJECT PARTNERS: RACE & ETHNICITY

SEX

Figure 5 below summarizes the extent to which each of the five project partners collects, receives, houses and/or shares data related to the sex of clients that it serves.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	C	C	N	C	C
Receive?	x	✓	x	x	x
House?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Share?	I	A	x	I	I

FIGURE 5: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINTS: SEX

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections collects the sex of clients served via an intake form that is completed by the client upon intake to an MDOC facility. The data point is housed in MDOC’s electronic offender management system, CORIS®. MDOC does not receive aggregate or case-level sex data from other project partners; it does, however, submit as part of NCRP annual case-level data to BJS on the population of inmates served, including the sex of each inmate. In addition, as referenced above, the annual youth recidivism report provides aggregated data by sex.¹⁸

Maine Department of Education

The Maine Department of Education collects the sex of children and youth enrolled in a secondary educational setting via an intake form that is completed by the youth or parent or guardian at the beginning of each school year and updated quarterly throughout the school year. The data points are housed in Synergy® and DOE shares aggregated data on the sex of clients enrolled in school annual with the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, DOE and OCFS share client-specific sex data, for those clients served by both project partners – that is, children (and parents/caregivers) involved with child protection cases and enrolled in a secondary educational institution.

¹⁸ Wheeler, T., & Dumont, R. (2021). *Youth Recidivism: Diversion to Discharge in Maine’s Juvenile Justice System*. Maine Statistical Analysis Center. University of Southern Maine.

Maine Judicial Branch

The Maine Judicial Branch does not consistently collect the sex of children or families involved in child protection cases, although it may be referenced within the narratives of individual court filings.

Office of Child and Family Services

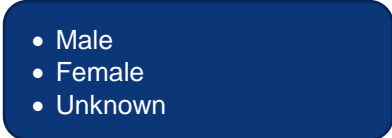
The Office of Child and Family Services collects the sex of children and parents at the time a client becomes known to the project partner, usually through a report of abuse or neglect or referral for service. As with race and ethnicity, those data points are housed in the ACES and Katahdin case management systems. The sex of the client will generally be initially reported based on the visual observation of the person making the report, and it may be updated over the life of the case as the client clarifies their self-identification.

As noted for other data points, OCFS reports client-specific data to the federal Administration for Children & Families under two reporting frameworks – annually through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, reporting the sex of individual victims and perpetrators alleged to have been involved in reports of abuse or neglect. In addition, the semi-annual reporting of AFCARS data to ACF on children placed out-of-home and adopted during the preceding six-month period, includes the sex of the child and (where applicable) and the foster parent(s) with whom the child most recently resided.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety collects the sex of individuals who are involved with law enforcement as an alleged victim or offender, based on the visual identification of the law enforcement officer investigating the incident. The data points are housed within DPS's case management system, Spillman Flex®. On an ongoing monthly basis, DPS reports the sex of victims and offenders at the client level through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Each of the four project partners that collect and store information in a coded format on the sex of clients served do so using the same array of three options, as listed in Figure 6. It should be noted that none of the systems are designed to identify individuals considered to be intersex at birth.

- 
- Male
 - Female
 - Unknown

**FIGURE 6: RESPONSE OPTIONS:
SEX**

Current Framework and Potential Opportunities for Sharing Data

As illustrated in Figure 7 below, four of the five project partners share data on the sex of clients served within their system with other entities:

- The Department of Education shares aggregate data on children and youth enrolled in secondary educational facilities annually with the U.S. Department of Education.
- OCFS shares case-level data on both reports of abuse or neglect, and children removed from the home, through the NCANDS and AFCARS federal reporting mechanisms, respectively.
- MDOC shares case-level incarceration data with the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) through the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP).
- The Department of Education and OCFS share case-level data on a regular basis through a bi-directional data interface. This allows both project partners to stay informed about updates to the circumstances surrounding those shared clients on an ongoing basis.
- The Department of Public Safety shares case-level victim and offender data with the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the NIBRS reporting framework.

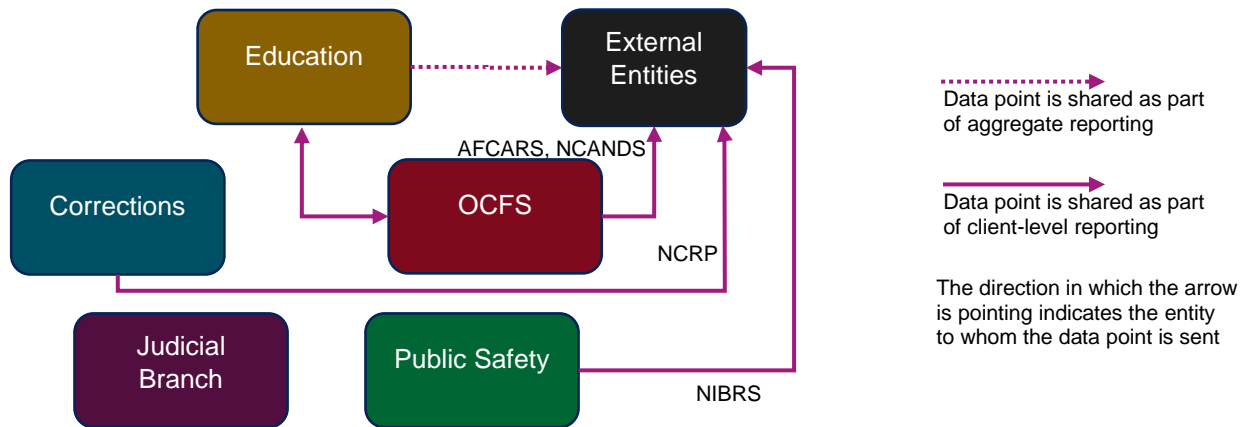


FIGURE 7: HOW DATA POINT IS TRANSMITTED AMONG PROJECT PARTNERS: SEX

DISABILITY STATUS

Figure 8 summarizes the extent to which each of the five project partners collects, receives, houses and/or shares data pertaining to clients' disability status.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	N	N	N	C	N
Receive?	x	✓	x	x	x
House?	x	✓	x	✓	x
Share?	x		x		x

FIGURE 8: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINT: DISABILITY STATUS

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections does not collect information about clients' disabilities in a structured manner, although upon intake to a MDOC facility, clients are able to self-report their disabilities in narrative form via an intake form. That information is stored within CORIS® in a narrative text field that requires additional data extraction, e.g., case record review, to quantify the data field.

Maine Department of Education

DOE does not routinely collect information on the disabilities of children served through local education agencies (LEAs). They are, however, privy on an ongoing *ad hoc* basis to disabilities that may impact the student's educational experience, or which may warrant the development of an individualized education plan (IEP).

Maine Judicial Branch

MJB does not collect information on disabilities of individuals, although the disability or disabilities of parties to court proceedings may be referenced within the narratives of individual court filings.

Office of Child and Family Services

OCFS collects information on the disabilities of children and parents served in child protection cases at the time a client becomes known to the project partner, usually through a report of abuse or neglect. Those data points are housed in OCFS's case management system. Although infrequently available at the time a report of abuse or neglect is received, each client's current disabilities may be updated

throughout the course of an investigation as it becomes known to the investigating worker, and over the life of the case as the circumstances of the clients evolve. For each client, limited disability information is captured through a series of form fields that allow the user to select from a list of disabilities.

OCFS reports client-specific data to the federal Administration for Children & Families under NCANDS when reporting data on reports of abuse or neglect whether the alleged victim is at risk due to an intellectual disability, emotional disturbance, visual or hearing impairment, learning disability, physical disability, or other medical condition; whether the alleged victim's caregiver(s) are at risk due to an intellectual disability, emotional disturbance, visual or hearing impairment, learning disability, physical disability, or other medical condition; and via AFCARS whether special services for persons with physical or development disabilities were provided.

When recording the disabilities of individual victims and caregivers, OCFS collects the data in a "select all that apply" manner, which is consistent with how the data are reported through NCANDS. In addition, twice yearly OCFS reports via AFCARS the specific disability or disabilities recorded for each child served in out-of-home care during the preceding six-month period. For each child so served, OCFS reports on whether any of the following disabilities apply:

- Mental Retardation,¹⁹
- Visual or Hearing Impairment,
- Physically Disabled,
- Emotionally Disturbed, and/or
- Other Diagnosed Condition Requiring Special Care.

OCFS's "select all that apply" mechanism for capturing client disabilities is also consistent with how those data are reported via AFCARS.

While the list of specific disabilities that OCFS captures for individual clients goes well beyond that required for federal reporting, that detailed information does allow the Office to closely monitor the medical, emotional and behavioral health needs of its clients; within DHHS' case management system, each specific disability is also mapped to a corresponding NCANDS/AFCARS disability category, allowing the project partner to report data to ACF at a lower level of detail than that which is used and referenced internally.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety does not collect information about the disabilities of victims or offenders with whom it comes in contact as part of a law enforcement investigation, except in cases where it was relevant to the incident or investigation.

¹⁹ The AFCARS data element via which a child's cognitive disability is reported has been named "mental retardation" since the AFCARS regulations were promulgated in 1993 (58 Fed. Reg. 67,926 (December 22, 1993)). On October 1, 2022, however, the name of the AFCARS data element will be updated at the federal level to "intellectual disability."

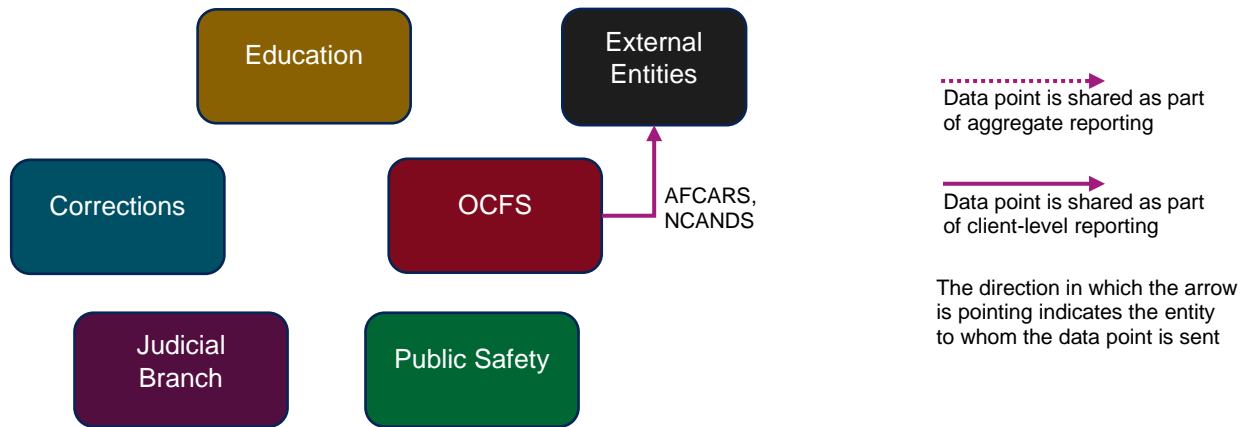


FIGURE 9: HOW DATA POINT IS TRANSMITTED AMONG PROJECT PARTNERS: DISABILITIES

TRIBAL CONNECTION AND ENROLLMENT/ELIGIBILITY

The question of whether a client served by the project partner has a connection with an American Indian tribe, band or nation through cultural, familial or social ties is a different question from whether the client is eligible for enrollment or enrolled with a given tribe, band or nation. PCG’s review of how each of the project partners collects, receives, houses and shares those data elements revealed no substantive differences, and are therefore being presented in this report together, with differences noted where appropriate.

Figure 10 below summarizes the extent to which each of the five project partners collects, receives, houses and/or shares data pertaining to clients’ connection with, eligibility for or enrollment with an American Indian tribe, band or nation.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	x	x	N	C & N	N
Receive?	x	x	x	x	x
House?	x	x	x	✓	x
Share?	x	x	x	x	x

FIGURE 10: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINTS: TRIBAL CONNECTION AND ENROLLMENT/ELIGIBILITY

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections does not systematically collect information about clients’ connection with, eligibility for or enrollment with a tribe, band or nation of clients. When tribal enrollment is disclosed by a client, it is captured solely in assessment or case note narratives.

Maine Department of Education

The Maine Department of Education does not systematically collect information about youth’s or families’ connection with, eligibility for or enrollment with a tribe, band or nation. Where relevant, however, local education agencies may collect that data on an *ad hoc* basis.

Maine Judicial Branch

The Maine Judicial Branch does not collect information about the connection with, eligibility for or enrollment with a tribe, band or nation of clients at intake to a MDOC facility, although where relevant, that information may be included within the narratives of individual court filings.

Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services

The Office of Child and Family Services collects information about the tribal connection, eligibility and/or enrollment of children and families served in child protection cases at the time a client becomes known to the project partner, usually through a report of abuse or neglect. Those data points are input in DHHS' case management system via a drop-down list with the worker selecting Yes, No or Unknown. Where a child or case participant is enrolled with, eligible for enrollment, or connected to a tribe, band or nation, the name of the tribe, band or nation is captured via a narrative free-text form element.

The enrollment with, eligibility for or connection to a tribe, band or nation of the client may initially be reported based on the knowledge of the person making the report. Similar to the child's racial and ethnic identification, the details of each client's enrollment, eligibility or connection may be updated over the life of the case as the client clarifies their self-identification.

OCFS does not, however, report information on tribal eligibility, enrollment or connection through any external reporting arrangement. While the AFCARS and NCANDS federal data collection mechanism does permit individual children, alleged perpetrators and foster parents to be identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, it is only within the context of the client's racial self-identification, rather than arising from a stated connection to, eligibility for or enrollment with a tribe.

OCFS, however, is obligated under the provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to comply with federal standards for the removal and subsequent placements of children eligible for, or enrolled with an American Indian tribe recognized by the federal government.

Maine Department of Public Safety

The Maine Department of Public Safety does not collect information about the connection with, eligibility for or enrollment with a tribe, band or nation of clients in a structured manner. When such information is known, it is captured only in a narrative format.

INCOME

Figure 11 below summarizes the extent to which each of the project partners collects, receives, houses and/or shares data related to the income of clients that each project partner serves.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	x	N	N	C	x
Receive?	x	x	x	x	x
House?	x	x	x	✓	x
Share?	x	x	x	x	x

FIGURE 11: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINTS: INCOME

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections does not collect information about the income of clients upon intake to a MDOC facility.

Maine Department of Education

The Maine Department of Education does not routinely collect information about youth’s or families’ income level, although they are aware of which families choose to apply for, and which families are subsequently enrolled in the National School Lunch Program, the eligibility for which is based on family income and household size.

Maine Judicial Branch

The Maine Judicial Branch does not collect information about the income of children and families involved in child protection court proceedings. They are aware, however, of parties that were found to be indigent, and for whom counsel was appointed by the Court. They do not, however, have a way to identify court participants for whom an initial finding of indigency was reversed, and the appointment of counsel was withdrawn due to non-indigency.

Office of Child and Family Services

OCFS routinely collects information about the income of families that it serves. Information on each family’s income is collected as part of the determination of eligibility for federal programs such as Title IV-E (foster care and adoption assistance) and Title XIX (MaineCare). It does not, however, reflect all sources of income for the family, as only certain countable sources of income may be used when determining eligibility for federal programs. The income of the family is collected as part of the eligibility determination process for those programs but is not updated on a regular basis as the circumstances of the family change.

The data on family income are housed in OCFS’s case management system, Katahdin, via a free-text form element in which the income of the family is recorded as a numeric value.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety does not collect information about the income of victims or offenders with whom it comes in contact as part of a law enforcement investigation.

LOCATION

Figure 12 below summarizes the extent to which the five project partners collect, receive, house and/or share data related to the location (home address) of clients that each project partner serves.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	C	C	C	C	C
Receive?	x	OCFS	x	DOE	x
House?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Share?	x	A	A	I	x

FIGURE 12: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINT: LOCATION

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections collects the home address of clients served via an intake form that is completed by the client upon intake to an MDOC facility. The data point is housed in MDOC’s electronic offender management system, CORIS®. MDOC does not receive aggregate or case-level address data from other project partners, nor does the project partner share such data with its fellow partners, either in the aggregate or at the case level, except on an infrequent, *ad hoc* basis.

Maine Department of Education

The Maine Department of Education collects the home address(es) of children and youth enrolled in a secondary educational setting via an intake form that is completed by the youth or parent or guardian at the beginning of each school year and is updated quarterly throughout the school year. The student's home address is housed in Synergy®. DOE does not report aggregated data by location as part of its federal reporting, although the numbers of children served by LEA are included in the DOE's annual federal reporting. DOE and OCFS share with each other client-specific home address data, for those clients served by both project partners.

Maine Judicial Branch

The Maine Judicial Branch collects the home address information of children and parents/caregivers involved in child protection cases. These data are not shared with other project partners on a routine or structured basis, except to the extent that those project partners are involved in court proceedings in which a parties' home address is known. They do, however, have the ability to run reports on court participation at the town and county level.

Office of Child and Family Services

The Office of Child and Family Services collects the home address(es) of children and parents served in child protection cases at the time a client becomes known to the project partner, usually through a report of abuse or neglect. Those data points are housed in OCFS's case management system, Katahdin. The information is recorded when it becomes known to the project partner, usually when a report of abuse or neglect is received, or during the course of the investigation. It is also routinely updated over the life of the case, including when a child is placed out of the home. OCFS does not routinely report on client home or placement address information, although for children who were removed from the home, the county with legal custody of the child is reported at the case level via the AFCARS federal reporting mechanism.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety collects the home addresses of victims and parents involved in child protection cases; where available, the address of alleged perpetrators is also gathered. Where available, the data are stored in DPS's Spillman Flex™ system.

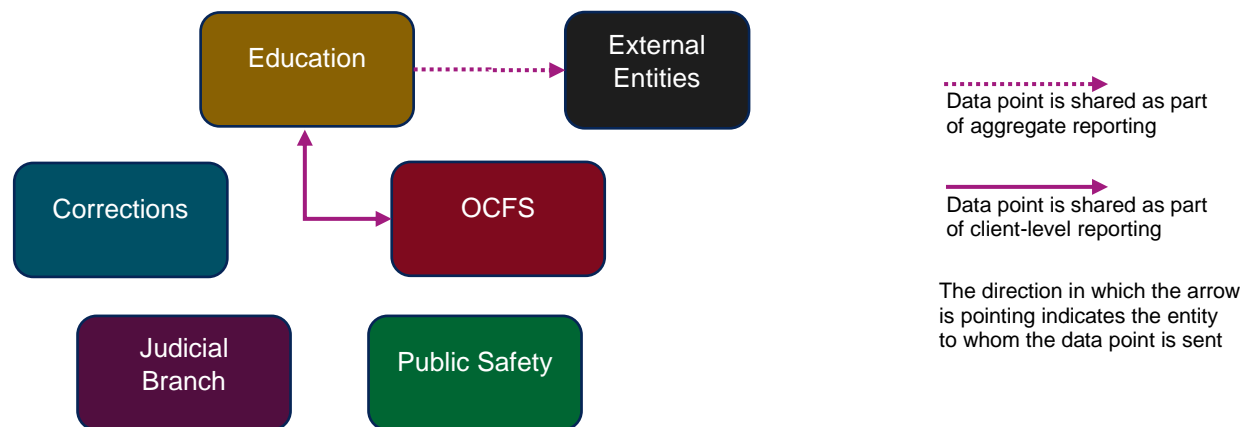


FIGURE 13: HOW DATA POINT IS TRANSMITTED AMONG PROJECT PARTNERS: LOCATION

GENDER IDENTITY

Figure 14 below summarizes the extent to which the five project partners collect, receive, house and/or share data related to the gender identity -- that is, an individual's self-identification as male, female or another identity -- of the clients that each project partner serves.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	N	x	N	N	N
Receive?	x	x	x	x	x
House?	x	x	x	x	x
Share?	x	x	x	x	x

FIGURE 14: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINT: GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections does not collect information about the gender identity of clients at intake to a MDOC facility, although it is gathered for individuals who complete a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) assessment. That information is only shared, however, on an *ad hoc* basis with a small number of individual staff; the information gathered via the PREA assessment is not stored or housed in their electronic case management system.

Maine Department of Education

The Maine Department of Education does not collect information about the gender identity of children who are enrolled with a LEA.

Maine Judicial Branch

The Maine Judicial Branch does not collect information about gender identity of parties to a court proceeding, although where relevant, it may be recorded within the narratives of individual court filings.

Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services

The Office of Child and Family Services does not routinely collect information about the gender identity of children or caregivers served by the project partner, although where appropriate that information may be collected in narrative form through case notes or assessments.

Maine Department of Public Safety

The Maine Department of Public Safety does not collect information about the gender identity of victims or offenders for which an incident is being investigated, except where relevant to a specific incident.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Figure 15 below summarizes the extent to which each of the five project partners collects, receives, houses and/or shares data related to the sexual orientation – that is, the emotional, romantic or sexual preference(s) of the individual – of the clients it serves.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Collect?	N	x	N	N	N
Receive?	x	x	x	x	x
House?	x	x	x	x	x
Share?	x	x	x	x	x

FIGURE 15: AVAILABILITY OF DATA POINT: GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Maine Department of Corrections

The Maine Department of Corrections does not collect information about sexual orientation of clients at intake to a MDOC facility, although it is captured for individuals who complete a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) assessment. That information is only shared, however, on an *ad hoc* basis with a small number of individual staff; the information gathered via the PREA assessment is not stored or housed in their electronic case management system.

Maine Department of Education

The Maine Department of Education does not collect information about sexual orientation of children who are enrolled with a LEA.

Maine Judicial Branch

The Maine Judicial Branch does not collect information about sexual orientation of parties to a court proceeding, although where relevant, it may be recorded within the narratives of individual court filings.

Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services

The Office of Child and Family Services does not routinely collect information about the gender identity or sexual orientation of children or caregivers served by the project partner, although where appropriate that information may be collected in narrative form through case notes or assessments.

Maine Department of Public Safety

The Maine Department of Public Safety does not collect information about the gender identity or sexual orientation of victims or offenders for which an incident is being investigated, except where relevant to a specific incident.

CONCLUSION

Of the ten data points, five of them are collected by MJB, DOC, DOE, OCFS and DPS. However, location is the only data point that is captured and stored in such a manner that data analysts could readily quantify where individuals reside across each of the four project partners. While some project partners do input race, ethnicity, sex and disability into a case management system in a structured manner, others do not, with the others collecting the information but retaining it in narrative format. Figure 16 below summarizes the extent to which each project partner collects each of the ten data points, where a “C” indicates that the project partner collects the data point in a structured format that lends itself to structured analysis and reporting; while an “N” indicates that the data point is only captured where appropriate in case notes or narratives.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Race	C	C	N	C	C
Ethnicity	C	C	N	C	C
Sex	C	C	N	C	C
Disability	N	N	N	C	N
Tribal Affiliation and/or Enrollment	x	x	N	N	N
Income	x	N	N	C	x
Location	C	C	C	C	C
Gender Identity	N	x	N	N	N
Sexual Orientation	N	x	N	N	N

FIGURE 16: SUMMARY OF PROJECT PARTNERS’ COLLECTION OF DATA POINTS

In instances where data are collected by the project partners, the data points tend to have similar response options due to similarities in how each federal agency to whom the project partners report data require the data to be reported. For example, the options for race and ethnicity collected through the NIBRS, NCRP, AFCARS and NCANDS federal reporting all leverage the same array of options promulgated in OMB’s 1997 “Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity” guidance, although NCRP only permits reporting of a single race category, but with a “Two or More” option for multi-racial inmates.

Figure 17 below summarizes how each project partner reports each data point. An “A” indicates that the data are reported in the aggregate only, while an “I” indicates that the data are reported at the case or individual client level.

	Corrections	Education	Judicial Branch	OCFS	Public Safety
Race	x	A	x	I	I
Ethnicity	x	A	x	I	I
Sex	x	A	x	I	I
Disability	x	I	x	I	x
Tribal	x	x	x	x	x
Income	x	x	x	x	x
Location	x	A	A	I	x
Gender Identity	x	x	x	x	x
Sexual Orientation	x	x	x	x	x

FIGURE 17: SUMMARY OF PROJECT PARTNERS’ REPORTING OF DATA POINTS