



Oregon's Aid & Assist Dashboard



NATIONAL JUDICIAL TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE STATE COURTS' RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS

This Innovation Spotlight was developed by State Court Administrator Nancy Cozine and Business Analyst Conor Wall to describe its first in the nation "Aid & Assist" Dashboard by responding to a series of questions. The term Aid & Assist is used in Oregon to describe its competency to stand trial system.

How do court staff use the dashboard? What kinds of court decisions are informed by the data?

The dashboard is primarily a way for the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) and individual courts to track changes in aid & assist caseloads and work with system partners to identify areas for improvement and system change at the state and local level.

OJD has used information from the dashboard in presentations to and conversations with legislators and in meetings of the state's Aid & Assist Workgroup, which works on identifying, proposing, and implementing legislative changes to improve the aid & assist system. Judges have also presented information from the dashboard to their Local Public Safety Coordination Councils to inform local conversations and decisions around the aid & assist system.

Court staff can also use the dashboard to track their aid & assist caseload, find cases that need to have a review hearing set, and identify data entry errors and data quality issues.

Who has access to the dashboard? Is it public facing? What factors did you consider when deciding who would have access?

The dashboard is internal to OJD and is not public facing. All circuit court judges, trial court administrators (TCAs), and Office of the State Court Administrator (OSCA) division directors have access to the dashboard, as do any court and OSCA staff who have been approved for access by their TCA or division director.

Although the public does not have access to the dashboard, OJD does present information to and share screenshots from the dashboard with external stakeholders, and is working on policies on whether, when, and how the dashboards can be made available to external users.

What data elements does the dashboard pull from the case management system? Does it pull data from any other sources (either within or outside the courts)?

The dashboard pulls information regarding defendants, case status, court orders, release agreements, hearings, charges, and dispositions from OJD's Odyssey case management system. It does not currently incorporate data from other sources, but OJD is working on incorporating data from county jails and more detailed placement data recorded by aid & assist coordinators in some courts.

What kinds of filters can users apply to the data?

Users can filter data to a specific court or courts and can choose whether to display numbers of cases or unique defendants. Pages that show change over time also allow users to filter by time period, and some pages have filters to show data by degree (*e.g.*, Class A Felony, Class B Misdemeanor) and category (*e.g.*, person, property, public order) of the defendant's most serious charged offense.

How often are the data updated? Does this happen automatically?

The data are refreshed automatically each morning with information entered into the court's case management system through the end of the prior day.

Who built the dashboard? Did you have to hire an external contractor? If so, was it expensive? If not, how much staff time did it take to build?

The dashboard was created by OJD's behavioral data analyst and built upon a data warehouse and reporting infrastructure created by a team of OJD data analysts in collaboration with OJD's IT division.

Because OJD started the process of creating an aid & assist dashboard with no data and no business processes on aid & assist cases, the dashboard took nearly eleven months to complete.

This included time for each of the following:

- Soliciting input from OJD's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee on what data OJD should be tracking on aid & assist cases
- Identifying and implementing new codes and business processes needed to track data on aid & assist cases in OJD's case management system
- Training staff on new business processes
- Building and testing the processes to synthesize the data and prepare datasets for analysis
- Creating a draft dashboard for review
- Soliciting input from judges and court staff on the draft version of the dashboard
- Working with courts to improve data quality prior to publishing the final version



What resources are needed to maintain the dashboard? Can you update it as new questions or needs arise?

Because the updates to the dashboard are automated, the main maintenance need is working with courts to maintain data quality. Part of this work is facilitated by a data quality page that identifies potential errors for court staff to review.

New information is added to the dashboard periodically as reporting needs change or additional information is ready to be incorporated. OJD added information in May on evaluations obtained through 'rapid evaluation' dockets that four courts have implemented to reduce the turn-around time on competency evaluations for in-custody defendants.

OJD is currently working on updates to the dashboard to incorporate information from county jail webpages and show how the number of aid & assist defendants in jail, at the Oregon State Hospital, and out of custody have changed over time.

For further questions, please contact Business Analyst Conor P. Wall, Conor.P.Wall@ojd.state.or.us. As additional Competency Dashboards are developed contact Patti Tobias, ptobias@ncsc.org so we can share them with the [National Judicial Task Force](#) and the national court community.

