



division of
**Technology
Services**

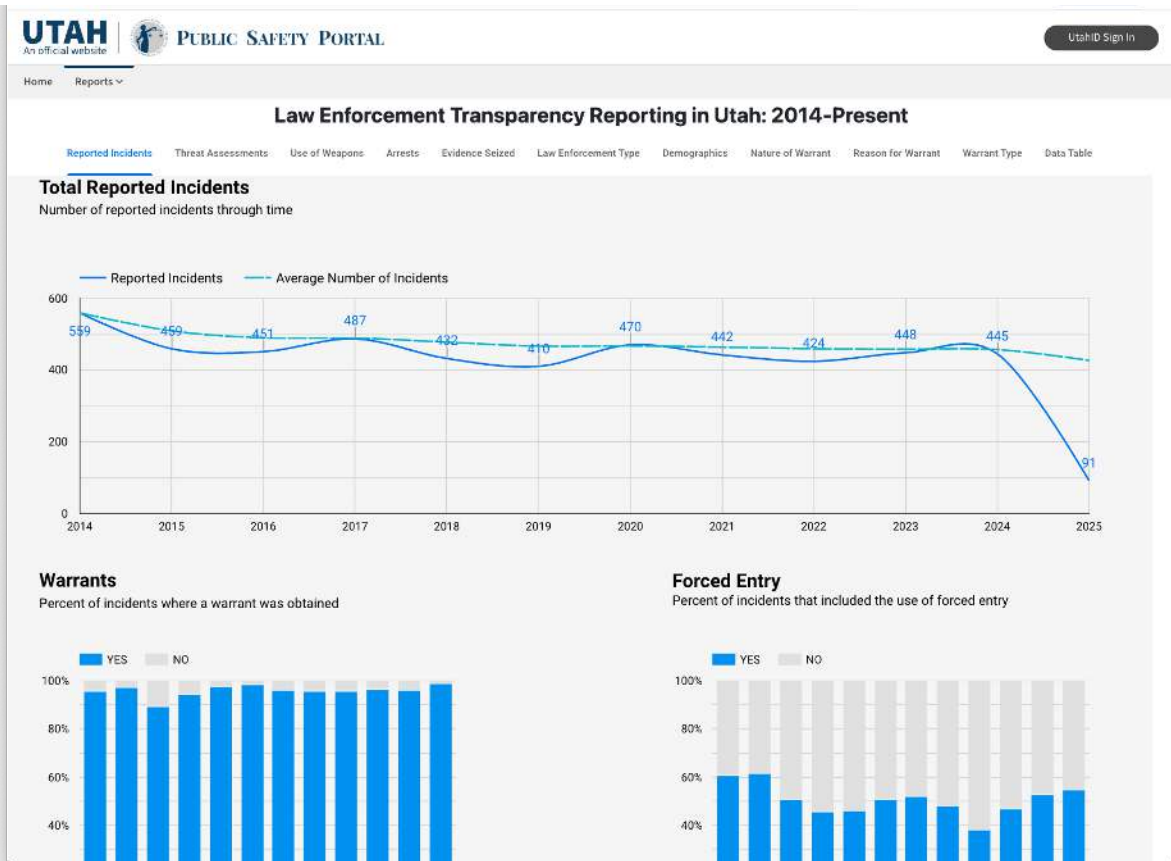
State of Utah

Data Management, Analytics & Visualization
Utah Public Safety Portal
A FRAMEWORK FOR DATA-DRIVEN CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

July 1, 2022 - 2025

Alan Fuller - alanfuller@utah.gov
Stephanie Weteling - stephanie@utah.gov

[Utah Code §63A-16-1002](#) delegated the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to oversee the creation and management of a [Public Safety Portal \(https://ccjj.utah.gov/welcome\)](https://ccjj.utah.gov/welcome) for public safety information and data required to be reported to the commission and accessible to stakeholders.



IDEA

Problem or opportunity addressed

A critical component of effective oversight and accountability, data and information sharing within the criminal justice system has reached a new level of sophistication through the implementation of the Utah **Public Safety Portal**. Lack of standardized data definitions and exchange protocols across over 400 criminal justice stakeholders in Utah, each utilizing various vendor products and unique data management systems, hinders effective data sharing and communication. Prior to the Public Safety Portal, the "different languages" of data management systems and a lack of harmonized data contributions challenged statewide data aggregation and prevented a unified understanding of criminal justice information.

Why it matters

This comprehensive system delivers aggregated law enforcement data across the state, providing essential insights to legislators, counties, cities, law enforcement entities, and other stakeholders regarding crime trends and patterns within Utah. The data can be used for better understanding and planning by law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders.

What makes it different

Prior attempts to establish similar statewide systems faced considerable challenges due to the project's inherent scale and complexity, particularly in harmonizing data contributions from numerous disparate entities in a resource-efficient manner for data providers.

The successful development and deployment of the Public Safety Portal represents a three-year dedicated effort encompassing the creation of a robust database infrastructure, collaborative engagement with diverse law enforcement agencies, and strategic partnerships with software vendors to establish effective data extraction methodologies.

What makes it universal

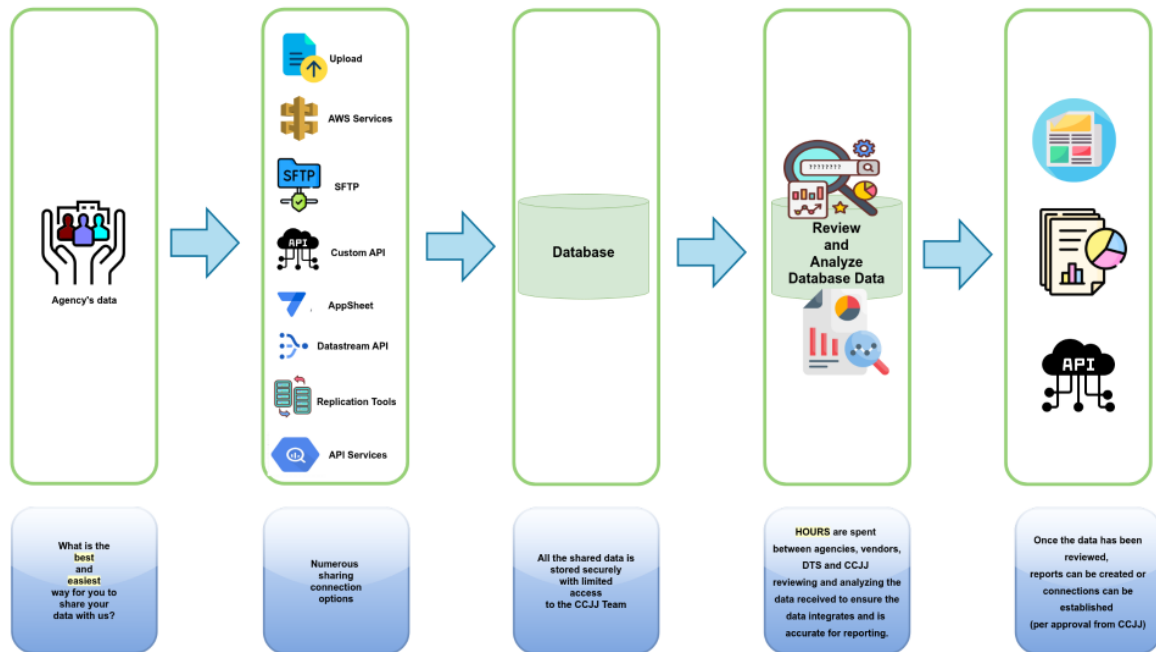
The Portal, while facing the inherent challenge of integrating data from over 400 stakeholders that utilize a wide array of vendor products and unique data management systems, supports consistency of design and experience at a foundational level by establishing standardized data definitions and exchange protocols. This focus on data-level consistency ultimately aims to ensure a coherent and reliable understanding of criminal justice information, contributing to a more consistent and trustworthy experience for constituents interacting with the outputs and outcomes of the system.

A core objective of the Portal is to define common data elements, formats, and schemas for key criminal justice metrics. This involved extensive collaboration with participating agencies and software vendors to map unique data fields to these standardized definitions. While the extraction methods vary by vendor, the resulting data within the central repository adheres to a consistent structure. This ensures that when data from different sources is analyzed and reported, it is based on a unified understanding of the information.

By consolidating data from various agencies into a single, secure repository, the Public Safety Portal creates a consistent point of access for analysis and reporting. This centralized approach eliminates the inconsistencies that would arise from trying to compare and contrast data held in numerous disparate and potentially incompatible systems.

IMPLEMENTATION

Roadmap



Who was involved

Spearheaded by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ), in close collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, this innovative statewide data portal serves as a central repository for key criminal justice metrics provided by a diverse array of over 400 stakeholders. These include approximately 160 arresting agencies, 104 courts, 24 jails, 31 correctional facilities, and parole and probation offices, with ongoing efforts to integrate data from prosecutors across the state.

How we did it

The challenge of integrating data from numerous vendors with unique systems was a significant hurdle. The project addressed this through:

- Working closely with each agency and their specific vendor to develop tailored data extraction methods, including APIs, custom scripts, database queries, and other techniques.
- Engaging with software vendors to understand their data structures and identify the most efficient and accurate ways to extract the necessary information.

- Implementing extract, transform, load processes to transform the data from various source formats into the standardized format required by the Portal. This step was crucial for ensuring consistency despite the differences of the original data.

IMPACT

What the project made better

The Public Safety Portal delivers significant benefits and enhances the ability of state legislators, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to collaboratively improve the safety and well-being of constituents through enhanced data access and informed decision-making.

For state legislators, the Portal provides a comprehensive, statewide view of criminal justice data. This enables them to formulate evidence-based policies, conduct more effective oversight of law enforcement and the judicial system, and make informed budgetary decisions regarding public safety initiatives. By analyzing trends in crime, arrests, and system performance, legislators can craft targeted legislation and allocate resources strategically to address the evolving needs of their constituents.

Law enforcement agencies benefit directly from the Public Safety Portal by gaining access to a broader range of data across jurisdictions. This facilitates better intelligence sharing, the identification of statewide crime patterns, and more informed resource deployment at the local level.

Beyond legislators and law enforcement, the Public Safety Portal serves as a valuable resource for other key stakeholders in the criminal justice system, such as courts, correctional facilities, and probation and parole offices. Access to standardized data allows these entities to better understand system-wide trends, evaluate their own performance in relation to statewide benchmarks, and collaborate more effectively with other agencies. This improved understanding and collaboration ultimately contribute to a more efficient and effective criminal justice system for the benefit of all constituents.

While the raw data may not be directly accessible to the public, the insights derived from it inform the reports and analyses shared by legislators, law enforcement, and other agencies. This data-driven approach to governance fosters greater public trust by demonstrating a commitment to evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement in public safety.

How we know

The Public Safety Portal currently houses over 3.4 billion rows of data, representing an unprecedented cooperative endeavor that empowers Utah with significant reporting capabilities and the ability to identify critical trends for informed policy formulation and enhanced outcomes. Each of the criminal justice partners will be able to utilize this aggregated data as well. They'll be able to see all their data compared to other areas of the state. They are also seeing in real time how the data they enter (or more importantly do NOT enter) in their agency's software, impacts the other CJ partners down the line. Ie, how the lack of a SID in the arrest record can affect that court disposition NOT being added to the right incident on a Utah Criminal History. Or the lack of a birthdate can impact the prosecutor being able to enhance a subsequent violation. Criminal

justice partners can leverage this combined data to compare their performance against other areas statewide. They gain real-time visibility into how the completeness of their data entry impacts other agencies in the criminal justice system. For example, the absence of a State Identification Number (SID) in an arrest record can prevent a court disposition from being correctly linked to the relevant incident in Utah's Criminal History. Similarly, a missing birthdate can hinder a prosecutor's ability to pursue enhanced charges for subsequent offenses.

What now

Our next step is to create the reports with all the data we've collected (many are already created) and share them with the agencies and the public. The agencies are able to log into the portal and see their own data. They can see their strengths and weaknesses in the data compared to the rest of the state. The idea being that this will prompt internal conversations and conversations between the CJ partners about ways to improve the system. During this step CCJJ can begin using all this data for significant data analyzation that they aren't able to do today. Following this step, we plan to allow the agencies to call us to pull data into their systems so they can use the aggregated data for their own improvements and analyzations. We will now generate and distribute reports containing the compiled data to both agencies and the public (many reports are already complete). Agencies can access a portal to view their specific data, allowing them to compare their performance against statewide metrics, which is intended to foster internal discussions and collaborations among criminal justice partners to drive system improvements. Simultaneously, the CCJJ will leverage this comprehensive data for in-depth analysis currently not feasible. Subsequently, we intend to enable agencies to request data integration into their own systems for localized enhancements and analysis using the aggregated information.