

1. Data Collection Infrastructure

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is the State Administering Agency for the Byrne-JAG grant for the state of Oregon and is therefore the state entity responsible for collecting and reporting information to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) as of 2019. Presently, there are 12 state prisons, 31 municipal or county jails¹, nine juvenile facilities (including five correctional facilities and four transitional facilities)², and 152 law enforcement agencies within the state of Oregon. Deaths that occur while in Department of Corrections custody are reported to the Oregon State Police and the Oregon State Medical Examiner, as per Chapter 291, Division 27 of the Oregon Secretary of State Administrative Rules³. Oregon does not currently have further laws requiring agencies or institutions to report in-custody deaths to any state entity for record-keeping or reporting purposes, but lines of communication have been and are being established by CJC in order to collect the information needed to meet DCRA reporting requirements.

CJC has a working relationship with many of Oregon's law enforcement agencies and jails, and provides training and technical assistance (TTA) in the form of outreach, clarification regarding reportable data points, and some technical assistance with other data elements as requested. CJC does not currently require TTA in order to meet DCRA requirements.

2. Data Collection Methods

Oregon CJC uses the following resources to collect reportable death data:

- Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) reports all in-custody deaths via the publicly available "FlashAlert" system⁴. CJC collects information from this DOC reporting system and supplements these data with additional information (such as time, location, and manner of death) received from the State Medical Examiner (ME) and Multnomah and Clackamas County medical examiners.
- CJC receives in-custody jail deaths information from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) on an annual basis, in the form of a spreadsheet which includes relevant information regarding deaths in jail custody for each calendar year. Jails submit this information to OSSA on a voluntary basis. This information is supplemented with ME reports as needed. Quarterly, information is retrieved via public media reports and supplemented with requested ME records.
- CJC uses the Oregon Department of Justice's Death Incidents reporting site⁵ in order to compile information about arrest-related deaths in the state. This is later cross-checked against use-of-force data⁶, which law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit to CJC on an annual basis.

CJC does not currently receive any information regarding deaths that occur in Oregon juvenile facilities. CJC will open lines of communication with Oregon Youth Authority in order to obtain this information for future reporting.

¹ Oregon State Sheriff's Association. (2019). The Differences Between Oregon County Jails and State Prisons.

https://jacksoncountyor.org/sheriff/Jail/New-Jail-Project?EntryId=47284&Command=Core_Download&method=attachment

² Oregon Youth Authority: Secure Facilities: Close-Custody Facilities. <https://www.oregon.gov/oya/facilities/pages/default.aspx>

³ Oregon Secretary of State Office. Department of Corrections: Death (AIC): Assessment and Security. 291-027-0030.

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=37594>

⁴ FlashAlert: Oregon Department of Corrections. <https://www.flashalert.net/id/ORCorrections>

⁵ Oregon Department of Justice: Published Reports. <https://justice.oregon.gov/deathincident/home/search>

⁶ Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. (2023). Use of Force Reports in Oregon, 2022.

https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/Use_of_Force_Report_2022.pdf

CJC additionally faces challenges obtaining time, location, and manner of death information for individuals who pass away out-of-state (i.e., at an out-of-state hospital) while in Oregon state custody. Efforts are being made to open lines of communication with Oregon DOC to potentially receive this information directly from their health department, but CJC may require additional guidance from BJA/JRSA in order to acquire this information.

3. Data Reporting Methods

DCRA information is initially compiled using Excel spreadsheets and is reported to the BJA using the data import feature in the Performance Measurement Tool. Open records or cases pending investigation are sent to the Medical Examiner's office, which fills records requests via email and notifies CJC upon record closure. Data is then updated in the Performance Measurement Tool as needed.