Focus: This working group grew from the recognition that the present approach to data in criminal justice systems around the world is siloed, making the data difficult to access and interpret, which in turn makes it difficult to track progress or differences between systems.

Goal: Identify where data/metrics have been used more successfully and to understand how those successes might transfer across systems.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Many metrics exist, but there is no consensus and no current metric measures everything.

- Crime, arrest, conviction, and recidivism rates, as well as cost are all popular metrics
- All fail to capture deeper desired outcomes: respectful treatment of victims and offenders, repairing harm, and rebuilding communities
- Social trust could be useful new metric
- Positively correlates with resilience to crises and predicts crime rates well

The modern state is metric-driven and manages what it measures, theoretically.

- Development of new metrics could have significant impact
- Many countries however lack necessary resources, which poses challenge
  - Data must be accurate and consistent to be analyzed
- Data often doesn't enter the policy-making process, even where collected
  - Failure to communicate
  - Governments have incentives to hide or manipulate data
  - Dangerous erosion of public trust can follow
- Necessary to develop better fiscal, political, and communications strategies to ensure policies reflect the data and to preserve public trust

In designing metrics, it is important to determine the level and purpose for which data is captured.

- Levels include case, individual, community, policy, and legal
- Metrics can be top-down or bottom-up
  - Top-down metrics, e.g., social indicators like “trust”, have the benefit of being comparable across jurisdictions, but can be quite narrow
  - Bottom-up metrics are often more nuanced and holistic, but expensive to collect, require more work to analyze, and are, by definition, community-specific

- A combination of top-down and bottom-up is most useful, but resource-intensive

KEY EXAMPLES

- Chicago, Illinois (Heartland Alliance)
- Oakland, California (Reimagining Safety initiative)
- Israel (Community courts)
- Colombia (Reconciliation barometer)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- The work of James Scott on the modern state as a measuring, metric-dependent entity
- The UK’s Desistance Studies
- The Lammy Review: An independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System in the UK
- “Social Control and the Gang: Lessons from the Legalization of Street Gangs in Ecuador” by David Brotherton, R. Gude
- Knowledge Exchange from the Butler Trust
- World Prison Brief by the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research
- “Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: Setting the Record Straight” by Transform Drug Policy Foundation
- “Procedural Justice, Legitimacy and the Effective Rule of Law” by Tom R. Tyler
- “Still Not Safe: The public health response to youth violence” by the Children’s Commissioner
- Reimagining Safety by the City of Oakland, California
- “Healthy, Wealthy & Wise: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Transformative Credible Messenger Mentoring to Reduce Violence and Justice System Involvement” by the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
- How Domestic Violence Turns Men into Terrorists by Joan Smith