Data, Analysis, and the Prosecution of Crime



SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY JEFF ROSEN

Moving beyond an anecdote or a local myth

Looked at our data – it turns out most burglars were not coming to our County from elsewhere, but they were burgling right here.



So, we started seeing what else we could learn and seeing what decisions we could make from what we learned

Launched first Family Justice Center for DV victims in area with highest per capita incidence of DV.



www.santaclara-da.org

And who we needed to reach out to

- Our study on domestic violence deaths over the previous 30 years showed that 28% of victims and perpetrators were AAPI
- Our study of non-fatal felony domestic violence showed that 5.1% of reported domestic violence victims and perpetrators were AAPI
- ► 35% of our County is AAPI

Launched second FJC in partnership with Asian Americans for Community Involvement.



We saw that our red flag law was under used to prevent shootings, and we trained every police officer in the County on it.



GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS



Leading the state in the use of GVROs.

We saw that most low-level drug offenses were not being handled well in our drug courts, wasting a lot of court time, our time, and system time for the cases.

In effect we had an expensive middleman between a user and treatment.



Narcotic public safety policy refers users straight to treatment unless three cases in 12 months. Started end of 2019.

Charges filed for misdemeanor drug possession 2016-21



These numbers have risen in 2022 and 2023 in part because we have a fentanyl exception to this policy that has resulted in increased filings – still well below 2018 levels.

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We saw that resisting arrest cases, where no other charges were filed, were highly racially disproportionate compared to the County population.







And we saw that we were charging more than 800 resisting arrest charges, where no other crime was charged, a year.

So, I changed our charging policies in mid- 2020.



We knew cases were taking much longer these days. We studied it to show others how much longer and where improvements could be made.

A chart from our new data dashboards that we've used in meetings with the judges and system partners about the need to get back to prepandemic timelines.

Felony Cases



Cases with a time to disposition greater than 10 years are excluded. Source: PPI 3.1: Prosecutorial Performance Indicators • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

We wanted to know if we were filing cases at different rates depending on the race of the suspect.



No ornamental data reports – if a data report is not useful to affect our policy, our practice, or how we communicate with the public,

we should stop producing that report and make one that is!



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