

# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

## Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief



## Completeness of Criminal History Records in Arizona CY 2004-2013

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona.

### Arizona Computerized Criminal History Repository

May 2015

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §41-1750 mandates that Arizona criminal justice agencies submit certain arrest and associated case disposition charge information to the Arizona Department of Public Safety's central state repository, called the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) records system. A number of agencies across Arizona exceed the statute-mandated requirement and include most, if not all, felony and misdemeanor charges to the ACCH. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center uses ACCH extracts to analyze the completeness (i.e., arrest charges with associated case disposition information attached) of ACCH records on an annual basis.

### Completeness of Arrest Records Entered in the ACCH

A total of 459,957 arrest charges processed in calendar year (CY) 2013 were entered into the ACCH prior to January 1, 2015. Of the CY 2013 arrest charges entered into the ACCH, 291,272 (63.3 percent) contained associated case disposition information by the end of CY 2014 (Table 1). Since 2004, there has been a 10.0 percent cumulative improvement in arrest charges with

subsequent case disposition information entered in the ACCH, with the highest rate of completed records occurring in 2012. Although the percentage of completed records has fluctuated across the years, 2013 marked the lowest rate of records completeness since 2006 for all records in the ACCH, and lowest since 2005 for statute-mandated offenses outlined in A.R.S. §41-1750. This drop in records completeness represents 11.5 percent and 13.8 percent decreases, respectively, between 2012 and 2013.

While Table 1 displays records completeness within the individual calendar years, Table 2 examines completeness across annual ACCH extracts dating back to January 2002. Overall, disposition completion has cumulatively improved 6.8 percent from the 2011 extract to the 2015 extract, indicating that Arizona is improving in completeness, albeit not necessarily in speed of submission to the ACCH repository.

**Table 1. Arrest Charges with Associated Case Disposition Information Entered in the ACCH\*  
CY 2004-2013**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Arrest Charges Available in the ACCH	459,350	481,244	490,865	501,565	487,659	467,616	465,116	448,442	455,988	459,957
Arrest Charges with a Disposition in the ACCH	264,741	274,857	310,929	341,611	332,406	303,491	307,706	318,822	326,087	291,272
Percent of All Arrest Charges with Disposition Information	57.6%	57.1%	63.3%	68.1%	68.2%	64.9%	66.2%	71.1%	71.5%	63.3%
Percent of A.R.S. §41-1750 Arrest Charges with Disposition Information	56.5%	56.5%	64.0%	68.2%	69.9%	65.4%	65.0%	70.1%	70.5%	60.8%

\* Data includes only those arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing specific date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded from analysis.

**Table 2. Percentage of Arrest Charges with Associated Case Disposition Information in the ACCH\* by Annual January Extract**

	Arrest Charge Timeframe				
	Jan. '02 to Dec. '09 (2011 Extract)	Jan. '02 to Dec. '10 (2012 Extract)	Jan. '02 to Dec. '11 (2013 Extract)	Jan. '02 to Dec. '12 (2014 Extract)	Jan. '02 to Dec. '13 (2015 Extract)
Arrest Charges with Associated Case Disposition Information by January 1 <sup>st</sup> of the Extract Year	71.6%	72.4%	74.9%	76.4%	76.5%

\* Data includes all arrest charges available dating back to CY 2002, including charges with date errors and appellate court findings. The most current year's arrest charges are excluded because charges are given one full year for disposition completion.

**Table 3. Arrest Offense Categories with the Highest Number of Charges Missing Disposition Information in the ACCH\*, CY 2004-2013**

Arrest Offense Statute and Description	Statute Charges Missing Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2015)	Percentage of Statute Charges Missing Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2015)
1. A.R.S. §13-2506: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Failure to Appear	113,057	30.6%
2. A.R.S. §28-1381: Driving Under the Influence	93,570	18.3%
3. A.R.S. §13-3415: Drug Paraphernalia Violation	75,318	25.1%
4. A.R.S. §13-2507: 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Failure to Appear	55,972	67.4%
5. A.R.S. §13-3405: Marijuana Violation	52,875	25.2%
6. A.R.S. §13-2904: Disorderly Conduct	50,588	20.9%
7. A.R.S. §28-3473: Driving Violation	46,482	24.0%
8. A.R.S. §13-2810: Interfering with Judicial Proceedings	44,002	34.0%
9. A.R.S. §13-1203: Assault	41,127	18.9%
10. A.R.S. §13-3904: Promise to Appear Violation	37,836	23.2%

\* Data includes all CY 2004-2013 arrest charges and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31, 2014 without date errors.

### Missing Disposition Information by Offense

Listed in Table 3 are the ten Arizona Revised Statute offenses that account for the highest totals of arrest charges missing case disposition information in the ACCH over the CY 2004 to 2013 timeframe. In the ten-year period, it is promising to note that those charges potentially having the highest likelihood of a public safety threat as a result of incomplete data (i.e., DUI and Assault charges) had the lowest rate of incomplete information.

First and second degree failure to appear charges accounted for the greatest percentage and greatest number of incomplete information, respectively, suggesting that improvements in these two areas may substantially help Arizona's overall records completeness rates.

**Table 4. Percentage of Arrest Charges with Associated Case Disposition Information in the ACCH\* by County, CY 2004-2013**

County	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Apache	66.7%	65.3%	62.3%	64.7%	57.3%	75.2%	68.9%	70.7%	70.1%	57.6%
Cochise	56.7%	69.5%	66.8%	71.4%	67.2%	74.5%	66.6%	71.7%	68.6%	72.4%
Coconino	55.4%	56.9%	49.6%	63.3%	59.3%	46.5%	66.4%	62.8%	73.9%	67.8%
Gila	55.8%	56.4%	51.2%	50.0%	55.0%	60.3%	65.4%	77.3%	74.4%	57.8%
Graham	69.4%	66.3%	58.7%	61.7%	62.0%	69.0%	72.2%	70.8%	75.9%	77.2%
Greenlee	64.0%	65.8%	50.0%	73.9%	83.3%	76.7%	86.6%	80.9%	75.4%	83.6%
La Paz	65.6%	66.6%	46.3%	28.3%	38.7%	36.2%	52.6%	63.6%	76.8%	61.5%
Maricopa	67.8%	63.3%	66.5%	72.0%	72.7%	66.0%	65.6%	72.5%	72.8%	63.0%
Mohave	62.8%	60.7%	63.1%	62.8%	64.7%	72.3%	72.5%	72.8%	74.9%	73.1%
Navajo	21.4%	32.8%	42.3%	52.2%	53.9%	52.7%	49.4%	48.1%	60.7%	55.7%
Pima	34.6%	40.5%	61.2%	63.5%	56.8%	58.8%	66.4%	73.0%	71.9%	66.9%
Pinal	64.8%	61.8%	66.0%	63.3%	66.4%	70.9%	68.0%	66.3%	66.3%	37.6%
Santa Cruz	65.2%	60.3%	64.3%	59.5%	74.1%	77.9%	67.5%	69.9%	76.0%	77.4%
Yavapai	39.3%	58.8%	69.3%	74.9%	78.0%	79.4%	81.5%	81.0%	83.3%	84.3%
Yuma	70.8%	66.4%	73.2%	76.8%	81.3%	78.1%	78.5%	76.7%	59.7%	66.8%

\* Data includes arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded.

In CY 2013, Yavapai County increased its completion rate to 84.3 percent—the highest rate in the state and the only county with consistent increases across successive years. Greenlee, Cochise, Graham, Mohave, and Santa Cruz counties also showed ACCH arrest charge completion rates greater than 70 percent in CY 2013 (Table 4). A majority of Arizona counties, however, experienced a decrease in records completeness from CY 2012 to CY 2013.

**Case Disposition Completion Rates by Offense Type**

The data in Table 5 addresses the percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information available in the ACCH by offense type (i.e., misdemeanor vs. felony). The rate of misdemeanor arrest charges with associated case disposition information increased 11.2 percent between 2004 and 2013, with a peak high in 2011. Records completion percentages for felony arrest charges also cumulatively increased (8.4 percent) between 2004 and 2013, but the completeness rate fell below 60 percent to 55.7 percent for felony arrest charges in 2013. Table 5 only includes arrest charges entered by the end of the calendar year following the year of arrest, and the charges are “complete” if the subsequent case disposition data is entered into the ACCH by the end of the year following the arrest.

**Conclusion**

The findings described in this research brief have been compiled using an ACCH data extract provided by the Arizona Department of Public Safety in January 2015. Arizona continues to make improvements to the ACCH records system, as evidenced by the consistent improvement in completeness over time across annual data extracts dating back to January 2002. The recent decrease in completed records between 2012 and 2013 has somewhat slowed the consistent improvement rate down but provides valuable guidance on how to make progress in our ACCH system: attention paid to 1st and 2nd degree failure to appear charges; attention paid to felony arrest charges; and using the Yavapai County process to provide a model for other counties to follow.

**Case Disposition Completion Rates by County**

The percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information is also available by the county where the arrest was made (Table 4). From CY 2004 to 2013, a total of ten counties increased the percentage of arrest charges entered into the ACCH with associated case disposition information attached by the end of the year following arrest. In CY 2004, county rates of arrest charges with associated case disposition information entered by the end of the year following arrest ranged from a low of 21.4 percent to a high of 70.8 percent. As of CY 2013, the county percentages ranged from a low of 37.6 percent to a high of 84.3 percent of all arrest charges entered into the ACCH with associated case disposition information attached by the end of CY 2014.

A total of six counties realized disposition completion rates greater than 70 percent in CY 2013.

**Table 5. Percentage of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information in the ACCH\* by Offense Type, CY 2004-2013**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percentage of Felony Arrest Charges Disposed	51.4%	50.8%	60.0%	65.5%	67.8%	60.8%	59.7%	65.5%	66.8%	55.7%
Percentage of Misdemeanor Arrest Charges Disposed	61.6%	61.1%	65.4%	69.8%	68.4%	67.6%	70.3%	74.9%	74.8%	68.5%

\* Data includes arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded.

**Electronic vs. Paper Disposition Submissions to DPS**

Table 6 displays the percentage of disposition charges submitted to the ACCH by calendar year and method of submission. In CY 2004, 14.9 percent of all charges submitted to the ACCH were submitted electronically. This rate increased 63.1 percent by CY 2013, with 24.3 percent of all charges submitted electronically via E-Dispo and the Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS).

**Table 6. Percentage of Disposition Charges\* by Disposition Submission Type CY 2004-2013**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Charges Electronically Submitted through E-Dispo	14.9%	14.2%	9.9%	7.2%	7.2%	7.0%	6.6%	7.5%	5.3%	6.2%
Charges Electronically Submitted through ADRS	N/A	N/A	0.0%	6.6%	13.6%	13.9%	13.6%	12.4%	18.5%	18.1%
Charges Submitted via Paper Submission	85.1%	85.8%	90.1%	86.2%	79.2%	79.1%	79.7%	80.1%	76.2%	75.7%

\* Data includes all disposition charges entered into the ACCH without date errors during the calendar year.

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