AOC data set problems and limitations

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) does not currently publish data collection and aggregation methodology nor data limitation analysis. We encourage the AOC to make this information available to enhance depth of content, and encourage the State to adequately fund this endeavor. As of publication, we have made this document available to AOC. We will amend this document as we get information about additional problems or limitations.

Administrative Office of the Courts data limitations can impact proportionality analysis and mask disparities. Like the CFC data set, the AOC data set shares the following areas for improvement.

- AOC data does not include granular racial categories and does not include "Native Hawaiian" and "Other Pacific Islander" in its dataset.

- AOC data does not enable users to identify multiracial individuals.

- AOC data does not capture nonbinary gender categories.

Additionally, the AOC data has other limitations.

- AOC data does not currently include data from King County Superior Court and King County District Court.

- For at least 20 years, Pierce County has maintained case data into their LINX (Legal Information Network Exchange) case management system. There can be discrepancies between the LINX and AOC record keeping systems.

- The AOC dataset contains file cases dating to 1930s; starting with 1976 there is an increase in availability of data. Data collection standards have evolved over time. The older case files may not contain data on race or specific charges. This varies greatly from county to county (see white paper for a detailed analysis).